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National Council selects speaker; Yahola to lead council

OKMULGEE — The 13th session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council elected Tukvptvce District Representative Thomas Yahola to the lead the 26-member legislative body for the next two years.

Yahola defeated Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes/ District representative Barbara Gillespie, Creek District representative George Tiger, and McIntosh District representative Tom Pickering.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Justice Amos McNac, right, swears in Thomas Yahola as speaker of the National Council.

Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes/ District representative Berryhill, of Coweta, defeated Creek District Representative Roger Barnett, of Bristow and David Nichols of Okmulgee was selected as sergeant-at-arms.

The following is a list of the National Council committees and members: Business & Governmental-Sandra Parish, Shirlene Ade, Anthony Notaro, Rita Williams, Ron Cleghorn, Richard Berryhill, and Roger Barnett; Tribal Affairs-Barbara Gillespie, Billy Chalakee, Jesse Kelley, Sue Johnson, Thomas McIntosh, and Sandra Golden; Community Services-Lola Fields, Lena Wind, Robert Jones, Duke Harjo, Tom Pickering, and David Nichols; Human Development-Larry Bible, Nancy Watson, Cherrah Quiett, Keeper Johnson, George Tiger, and Robert Hufft.

Tribe holds inauguration ceremony

OKMULGEE — A crowd of over 600 gathered at OSU/Okmulgee's Covelle Hall to witness the swearing in of A.D. Ellis into the office of principal chief at Saturday's inauguration ceremony.

Ellis, former second chief and national council representative, spoke on the direction his administration will take during his tenure as principal chief. Atop his list of priorities for the tribe includes economic development, education, and more employment opportunities for tribal citizens.

Ellis, who resides in Twin Hills, began his tribal political career at the age of 55 when he ran for a national council seat in 1991. He served as one of Okmulgee's district representative for four terms. In 1999, he ran for office of second chief and won a run-off election with current national council representative George Tiger. During his term as second chief he was highly visible and active with tribal citizens and learned firsthand their needs and problems facing the Muscogee Nation.

"I never dreamed I'd be in this position," stated Ellis. "But the majority of Creek citizens wanted me to be here." In fact, Ellis made history by being the first chief candidate to receive over 51 percent (1905) of the votes during the primary election, deciding the office of principal chief without a general election race.

While serving as second chief, one of his responsibilities was to serve as a board member for the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), a 8(a) company formed to pursue government and commercial contracts, specifically in the areas of telecommunications, construction services, and manufacturing.

Since its inception, MNBE purchased Complete Technology Concepts, a telecommunications company based in Texas, and secured a \$25 million contract between the United States Air Force, Altus Air Force Base and MNBE. Currently, MNBE has several job proposals pending. "Since February, we went from zero to 48 employees," stated Ellis.

Chief Ellis was also very adamant about working with the current National Council and tribally employed grantwriters to secure funding for construction of a multipurpose center on the grounds of the Claude Cox



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Justice Amos McNac, right, swears in A.D. Ellis as principal chief at Saturday's inauguration ceremony held at OSU/Okmulgee.

Omniplex. According to Ellis, the multipurpose building would house a gymnasium and a dialysis center.

Ellis also spoke about the foundation laid by former Chief R. Perry Beaver. Back in July, Beaver announced plans for a multimillion dollar hotel and entertainment complex, which includes the largest gaming center in the state, generating employment opportunities for our citizens. The OSU system and the Muscogee (Creek) Tribe formed a joint venture to develop a tribal college designed to serve the unique higher education needs of all Native Americans in Oklahoma, with eight slots promised to Creek nursing students each semester.

At the end of his speech, Ellis used an analogy of a bus and its passengers. Stated Ellis, "In order to move forward, we have to get the right people on the the bus and the wrong people off the bus." By the roaring ovation Ellis received before and after his speech, the tribal citizens have faith in Ellis as the driver of the bus.

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the October 7, extraordinary session.

Absent were: **Judy Aaron**, Creek District; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved as amended (16-0-0) TR 03-095, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Tulsa County, Oklahoma;
- approved (16-0-0) NCA 03-187, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in Wagoner County, Oklahoma to be used for economic development purposes;
- approved (16-0-0) NCA 03-195, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in Wagoner County, Oklahoma to be used for economic development purposes;
- approved (16-0-0) NCA 03-196, amending NCA 90-13, as amended by NCA 95-84 extending the deadline for grant proposals by chartered Creek Indian communities for fiscal year 2003 funds;

absent were: **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

a quorum was not established and no business was conducted;

absent were: **Judy Aaron**, Creek district; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee district; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce district; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa district; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa district;

Judy Aaron arrived before any business was taken;

veto message:

- veto (9-13-0) NCA 03-151, creating language revitalization and establishing the Mvskoke language division;

voting no were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **Daniel Wind**, Muskogee District;



Judge Amos McNac, far right, swears in the newly elected 2004 National Council Representatives. photo by Gerald Wofford

- approved (21-0-0) TR 03-079, authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation business enterprise board to execute an attorney agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation business enterprise board and **Steve Pazzo**;

- approved as amended (13-8-0) TR 03-094, confirming the nomination of **Victoria Lee** to serve as the director for the division of health administration;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Warrington**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (21-0-0) TR 03-098, approving the selection of contractors for projects 51-80, Turnkey new construction;

• approved (21-0-0) TR 03-100, approving the selection of contractors for rehabilitation of twenty-four (24) vacant Okmulgee low rent apartments, total rehabilitation to one (1) vacant mutual home help home, major foundation repair for one (1) home and rehabilitation of one (1) mutual help home;

representative **Daniel Wind** was recorded absent;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-148, repealing NCA 01-228 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 92-109 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation adopting a physical plant maintenance & capital improvement policy), as amended by NCA 97-81);

- approved (17-3-0) NCA 03-155, amending certain provisions of the gaming code, NCA 01-183, ??? 202, 203, 309, 403 and 506 and adding section 525 to chapter five regarding the acceptance of things of value by the commissioner, OPG employees, GOAB and their employees and chartered Indian communities and their

employees;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; and **Almerigi**, Okmulgee;

- approved (12-8-0) NCA 03-166, authorizing a special appropriation to the Mvskoke language institute; voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Warrington**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-179, amending NCA 99-10, as amended by NCA 02-107, ad amended by NCA 03-012, as amended by NCA 03-077, regarding the enterprise's budgetary and financial requirements;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-182, amending NCA 01-158 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation for the burial assistance under established guidelines and to repeal NCA 89-130, NCA 91-56 and NCA 92-147) as amended by NCA 02-085, as amended by NCA 03-158, to established a limitation of burial assistance funds available to tribal citizens in certain circumstances;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-185, amending NCA 01-185 as codified in title 4 of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, entitled "burial/cemeteries", related to burial assistance guidelines as amended by NCA 02-085 and NCA 03-158;

representative **David Nichols** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (19-0-0) NCA 03-192, amending NCA 01-12 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enacting a new law governing the enactment and codification of legislation and repealing NCA 96-96), ??? 1-115 and 1-116, related to the appropriation for publication costs and related to sales and distribution of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-193, amending NCA 01-12 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enacting a new law governing the enactment and codification of legislation and repealing NCA 96-96), ??? 1-115 and 1-116, related to the appropriation for publication costs and related to sales and distribution of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-194, amending NCA 96-66 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing and appropriating funds for rural volunteer fire departments within the Muscogee Nation) as amended by NCA 00-115;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 03-202, authorizing the expenditure of tribal court's enhancement grant from the United States of America department of justice;

- died on the floor (20-0-0) NCA 03-203, requiring oversight by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal construction engineer of all construction or capital improvements occurring on Muscogee (Creek) Nation property;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) NCA 03-204, authorizing a special appropriation to the Mvskoke nation honor guard to attend the Vietnam wall experience in Macon, Georgia, October 30 – November 2, 3003;

- died in council (20-0-0) NCA 03-058, authorizing an appropriation of matching funds to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation vocational rehabilitation program.

Births

Kali Anthony Allen

TULSA — Kali Anthony Allen was born October 3 at Peggy Heimerich Women's Health Center to Kali and Melissa Allen of Tulsa.

He weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Artman and Irene Tiger of Owasso.

Paternal grandparents are Milton and Melissa Allen of Broken Arrow.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Rev. C.D. and Marie Harjo of Okemah and Jim and the late Rachel Gutierrez of Bristow.

Paternal great grandparents are the late George and Aloyse Allen of New Haven, Connecticut.

Allen has one sister, Sarayl.



Allen

Dakota James July

TULSA — Dakota James July was born Dec. 3 at Hillcrest Medical Center to Thomas Evan and Rachael July of Glenpool.

He weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce and was 20 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Faith Watashe and Richard Barnett.

Paternal grandparents are Sauce and Florence July.



July

Birthdays

Ezekiel Thomas Cook

FT. WORTH — Ezekiel Thomas Cook celebrated his second birthday on January 24.

He is the son of Angelique Lynn Cook and Tommy Joe Johnson.

Maternal grandfather is Jerry Michael Cook. Maternal grandmother is Pauline Lowe and maternal great-grandfather is John Lowe.

Cook has one sister, Charolette.



Cook

Lance Geebon Nicholas Gouge

HENRYETTA — Lance Geebon Nicholas Gouge celebrated his second birthday on January 3.

He is the son of Geebon and Jenna Gouge of Henryetta.

Paternal grandparents are the late Lutie Sue Gouge and Thompson Sr. and Shirley Gouge of Lookeba.

Maternal grandparents are Karen and Joe Robertson of Beggs and John and Mary Boyce of Tulsa.

He is a member of the Lookeba tribal town.

Lance has two sisters, Hannah and Maddie.



Gouge

Lorene Hicks

OKEMAH — Lorene Hicks celebrated her 80th birthday on December 6 with friends and relatives at the Okfuskee Indian Community Center.

She has eight children, twenty grandchildren, and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

Dewar girl celebrates eighth birthday

DEWAR — Alissa Callie Taylor celebrated her eighth

birthday on December 13 with a sleepover party.

Taylor turned eight on December 14.

Alissa is the daughter of Lucas and Stefanie Taylor of Dewar.

Maternal grandparents are Richard and the late Louise Pulliam of Dewar.

Paternal grandparents are the late Walter Taylor and Sally Taylor of Henryetta.

She is the great granddaughter of Richard and Anne Pulliam of Dewar; the late Marchie Taylor and the late Lizzie Tiger of Ryal Community; and Edna Mitchell of Henryetta.

She is a member of Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church. She currently attends Henryetta Elementary School.



Taylor

Society

Weidner joins Pediatric Surgery

HANOVER, New Hampshire — Dr. Bryan C. Weidner was recently appointed assistant professor by Kirby I. Bland, MD, professor and chairman of the UAB Department of Surgery and Keith E. Georgeson, MD, professor and director of the Division of Pediatric Surgery.

He graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College, where he was a Rufus Choate Scholar and elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He completed medical school at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

He served his surgical internship and residency at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, where he was also chief resident and twice honored with the American Medical Student Association Golden Apple Award.

During his surgical critical care fellowship at Duke, Dr. Weidner was an attending general surgeon at the Durham Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, as well as an emergency department physician at the Asheville VA Medical Center.

He subsequently served a pediatric surgery fellowship at Children's Hospital and Medical Center, University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, where he was honored with the Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award. This was the first award ever presented to a surgical fellow by the University of Washington Pediatrics Residency Program.

Among his personal interests and activities, Dr. Weidner is a private pilot with the aerobatic training and, in 1995, completed the Marine Corps Marathon.



Weidner

Ladybugs take third in tournament

DEWAR — The Ladybugs placed third in the 1st Annual All-Indian Warrior's Showcase Shootout Basketball Tournament held Thanksgiving weekend.

The team received a team plaque and t-shirts for their efforts. Richard and Shelia Buckley of Okmulgee coached the seven and eight year old team. Team members included the following: Katelyn Harjo, Jasmine Buckley, Audrie Billie, Taijah Giger, Makayla Blackbear, Hannah Gouge, and Stacy Barrett.





Mvsoke Nation Honor Guard



James Proctor, leading the friendship dance.

Photos taken by the Communications Dept



Amos McNac swearing in Principal Chief Ellis



Victory Stompdance



California Fixico, Martha Berryhill, Charlie Coker, and Tom Moore enjoy the 2004 inauguration



Muskoke Nation Honor Guard stand at attention during the singing of the national anthem.



Muscogee Creek elders, including two original allottees, enjoy the inauguration ceremonies.



Amos McNac, congratulates Second Chief Berryhill



Second Chief Alfred Berryhill with his son Greg.



Second Chief; son, Greg; niece, Tonya Scott and brother, Bob King pose for a picture

Social services announces field site dates

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department is accepting applications for Native Americans needing assistance with basic living needs (shelter and utility expenses) at field sites in: Eufaula; Holdenville; Okemah; Muskogee; and Sapulpa.

The field sites and dates are:

- Okemah Indian Community Center, 1100 S. Woody Guthrie St. — applications will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m., Jan. 21 and Feb. 4.

- Eufaula Indian Community Center, 800 Forest Ave. — applications will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m., Feb. 5 & 19.

- Sapulpa Indian Health Center, 1125 E. Cleveland — applications will be accepted from 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 5 & 19.

- Holdenville Indian Community Center, 224 E. Poplar — applications will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m., Jan. 20 and Feb. 3 & 17 and

- Muskogee Indian Community Center, 111 S. Virginia — applications will be accepted from 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 3.

If there are any questions, you may contact social services at the following: 1-800-482-1979 or (918)756-8700 ext. 7619 or 7620.

Applications being taken for the LIHEAP assistance

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services has received additional funds for the energy program, LIHEAP, and will begin taking applications on January 12.

This is for those who have not received heating assistance from this office or other agencies or communities in the past year.

Applicants must provide a copy of: heating bill; tribal enrollment or CDIB cards; social security cards; and proof of income for all members of the household.

If there are any questions, you may contact social services at the following: 1-800-482-1979 or (918)756-8700 ext. 7619 or 7620.

Eufaula Dormitory is selling t-shirts

EUFULA — The Eufaula Dormitory seniors are selling t-shirts to raise money for their senior trip.

The t-shirts are \$10. All Eufaula dormitory alumni, former students and parents of students are encouraged to help support the students.

The shirts will be white, with black lettering, that says "Eufaula Dormitory" with a Native American picture. A contest for the design on the t-shirt was won by Shane Harjo.

If you would like to buy a shirt please call (918) 689-2522 or 1-800-896-3181. All orders must be pre-paid.

Wild Onion dinner and bingo

OKEMAH — A wild onion dinner and benefit bingo, sponsored by Sam Proctor and B.J. Jackson, will be held on January 31 at the tribal town center.

Food sale starts at 11:30 a.m. and wild onion din-

ners are \$5.00 each. The dinner includes wild onions, beans, meat and fry bread. The grocery and special bingo starts at 1 p.m.

Drawings will be held for shell-shaker cans made by B.J. Jackson and yarn belts made by Leon Bell.

For more information call (405) 786-2950 or (918) 656-3615.

Creek Nation finance department receives award

CHICAGO— The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An award of financial reporting achievement has been awarded to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award winning CAFR. This has been presented to R. Perry Beaver, Principal Chief.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 14,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

Center offers program for mental health professionals

OKLAHOMA CITY— Mental health professionals interested in learning how to help Native American children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse are encouraged to apply for Project Making Medicine, a program taught through the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Project Making Medicine, which incorporates Native American traditional practices and cultural teachings, requires a 12 month training commitment. Funding is available for training, which includes two weeks of intensive training at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, phone consultation and a two-day training event at the trainee's site.

The project provides specialized clinical approaches for physically and sexually abused children that include: the treatment of adolescent sex offenders; children with sexual behavioral problems; and parent-child interaction therapy.

Participants will be provided training in clinical supervision and consultation to assist other professionals and tribal programs. Each participant will enhance his or her clinical skills, acquire strategies and identify re-

sources to be a child advocate in his or her community.

For more information and to apply for the 2004 program, contact project leaders Dolores Subia BigFoot, director of the Native American programs and assistant professor of research in the Department of Pediatrics at the OU Health Sciences Center, or Lorena Burris, a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Pediatrics at the OU Health Sciences Center, at (405) 271-8858 or dee-bigfoot@ouhsc.edu or lorena-burris@ouhsc.edu. Application deadline is March 12.

Inauguration video and photographs available

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department will be selling a video, DVD, and 8 x 10 and 5 x 7 glossy prints of the 2004 Inauguration Ceremony.

Photos of the 2004 Inauguration will be on display in the main tribal complex. Photos will be offered as a full 8 x 10 or two 5 x 7's.

The department will also offer a commemorative package that will include the following: DVD; Inauguration program; an invitation; one 8 x 10 print of the newly elected National Council; and a 5 x 7 glossy print of the chief and second chief's swearing in.

A photo video of the entire ceremony for viewing on a computer DVD player will also be offered in February. For more information, contact the communications department at (918) 732-7637.

**1st Annual All-Indian
March Madness
Tournament
March 18 - 20
Dewar Gymnasium
\$100
Deadline is March 1
NO HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS
Ages 15 - 18
16 Team Limit (8 Boys & 8 Girls)
8 Player Roster
3 Game Guarantee
1st - 3rd Place Team Trophies
All-Star Team
MVP
Outstanding Offensive Player
Outstanding Defensive Player
Slam Dunk, Hot Shot & 3-point contest
For more information contact Lucas
Taylor at (918) 732-7634.**

Spotlight



James makes Sequoyah gridiron history

by Gerald Wofford

Girls don't need to be playing football. They need to be at home curling their hair and practicing their cheers for the upcoming football game. That statement would work with most girls, but don't try telling that to a Muscogee (Creek) girl in Tahlequah, or you just might be wishing you were home curling your own hair.

Nancy James, a Sequoyah High School student, is a member of the high school football team. No, not a cheerleader or the person who gets the water for the team, James puts on the shoulder pads and straps on the helmet every Friday night in the fall. In fact, she is the first girl in the history of Sequoyah High School Football to do so.

But football isn't something she decided to try on a whim. She has been playing since the age of six, when she suited up for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club Mighty Mite League in Tulsa. James was the first girl to play in the young league. When she reached elementary school level football, her fourth grade team captured the Indian Nations Championship. When she got older, she played for Hamilton Middle School. While at Hamilton, James played for two Creek Coaches by the name of Simon and Matt Harjo.

James could have stayed in the Tulsa area and attended any school in the area. But she decided to attend her father's alma mater, Sequoyah. While enrolling at Sequoyah High School, she decided to go out for the freshmen squad. After making being the first freshmen girl in Sequoyah High School history to make the freshmen squad, James decided to go out for the varsity football team as a sophomore.

"I knew it might be the biggest risk I would take in my sporting life," stated James. "After all, I was going to be first girl ever to try this sort of thing at Sequoyah."

And then of course, the issue of size comes into play. James with all her heart, was not a prototypical high school football athlete. She stood only at five feet tall and weighed in at 150 pounds. But one of her future teammates encourage her to do so.

"One of the guys on the varsity said he wanted to see me in a uniform this

year," said James. "He told me to not give up." So James took the statement of her teammate as a challenge.



James

The final challenge in her mind was the acceptance from her teammates a member of the all boys football fraternity. But with the challenge from her teammate and others, the question of being accepted was no longer an obstacle. "The guys accepted me when I came out here," said James.

James has always been involved with some type of physical activity. She also plays basketball, softball, and volleyball. But football seems to be her favorite sport. She admits last year's play on the freshmen squad and this year's play on the varsity level is totally different.

"The players are definitely bigger and stronger," says James. "It physically is the difference between playing on the freshmen team and varsity team. Still, I'm glad I'm out here."

Although the team has fully accepted James's position on the team, there were a few skeptics at first. When interviewed by the *Muskogee Phoenix*, Lance Nells commented, "I thought it was crazy a girl would come out and try to play football. I began to think about it and thought it was about time. We've (team) heard for three years that girls wanted to play, but they never really tried it."

The Athletic Director at Sequoyah, Larry Grigg, also had some doubts about James desire to play hardball with the boys.

"I've said it before, if it was my daughter, I wouldn't let her play football, unless she was a kicker" says Grigg. "But the kids have really accepted her and the coaches have as well. Its not like its a circus deal in that it draws a lot of attention in a strange way."

The most important support she receives comes from her family. Her sister Sandy isn't a football player, but she has been a cheerleader for the Sequoyah Indians Football team. For Lila and Richard James,

the mother and father of Nancy, they couldn't be more proud. For Richard, who also played football at Sequoyah, he loves hearing the crowd yell Nancy's name. "I'm so full of joy when she does get to play," says Richard. "That's my baby out there!"

Shop talk with Gerald

Congratulations to the Sequoyah High School Boys Basketball team. The Indians fared very well in the *Tournament of Champions*. The tournament was held on the campus of Oral Roberts University inside the Mabee Center on December 29 through the 31st. The yearly tournament, which is put on by the Tulsa Public School System, invites area teams that are highly ranked or have won recent State championships to the three day event. It is a basketball fans heaven, watching the best in local high school cage action.

As mentioned earlier, Sequoyah did very well finishing second in a field of eight teams. The Sequoyah team, which is class 3A, lost to the highly ranked Bartlesville Bruins who are part of the 6A class. The Championship game was played on New Year's Eve. The Indians reached the finals by first defeating class 5A school East Central on Monday. The following night Sequoyah played 6A giant Tulsa Union on Tuesday. What a buildup on mascot attention Tuesday night's game must have been! The Indians verses the Redskins.

As in most basketball tournaments, no matter what region of the country, it is always interesting when a smaller school fares very well against the bigger schools they are playing in the tournament. It seems to capture the fans attention. That was part of the whole appeal of the film "Hoosiers". The Sequoyah team brought that appeal to the *Tournament of Champions*. And the fact that it (Sequoyah) was the only Native American School in the tournament was also extra special. The exciting finish to the Union game was proof that Sequoyah belonged there. The game, which went into overtime, saw five three pointers made in the last period by Sequoyah to force overtime play. The game went into overtime with an exciting last second three point shot at the top of the key by Solomon Horsechief. In overtime, the game battled back and forth till Sequoyah prevailed 66 to 64. Yet the local headlines from the state's second largest paper, *The Tulsa World*, only mentioned the thrilling game in a smaller print below the main headline, which announced the Bartlesville Bruins defeating the Memorial Chargers in the earlier game by a score of 48 to 37. Certainly a good game. Taking nothing away from the athletes that played in it, but as far as an action filled game which had to be determined by overtime and by five three pointers, Sequoyah should have received just a little bit more positive attention in this writer's opinion.

Three Muscogee (Creek) players make up the talented Sequoyah Indians Basketball team. They are Justin Marshall from Eufaula, and brothers Ryan and Trevor Taryole who are from Glenpool. Remember to keep us informed of our tribal citizens who shine on the playing field.

Creek Athlete ends Sooner career

NORMAN — The loss to the Tigers in the Sugar Bowl took away any chance of Oklahoma claiming a National Championship for the year that was 2003. And with the loss on January 4 in the Louisiana Superdome, comes the end of a college football career for many Sooner greats. Players, such as Derrick Strait, Brandon Everage, and Teddy Lehman, will leave behind a hard to fill presence on the football field. Others, such as Lombardi winner Tommie Harris and Dan Cody, are considering leaving early and entering the NFL Draft.

For Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Sooner football player Matt McCoy, the dreams of a multimillion dollar professional football contract is not waiting in the wings. McCoy, a Business Administration Major, completed all college courses in December to earn his degree and participated in winter graduation ceremonies at the University of Oklahoma. He plans to marry Rachel Jeffries later this month in Oklahoma City.

McCoy has seen the ups and downs of a major college football career during his time at OU. First recruited by ex-Sooner Coach John Blake, only to see the Blake era come to an immediate halt with his firing in 1998.

McCoy sees the hiring of Bob Stoops and a new

level in Sooner lore will be reached.

McCoy sees the Sooners play the likes of Notre Dame and return to a bowl game that ushers in a new millennium. The team's first bowl appearance in 5 years. The season ends with a disappointing loss to Mississippi in the Independence Bowl, but the stage is now set for bigger things.

McCoy is a part of a magical year that saw the Sooners elevate themselves back to national prominence by winning the 2000 National Championship. McCoy and the Sooners defeat Florida State in the Orange Bowl by a score of 13 to 2 and finish the season with a perfect 13-0 record.

He also saw the Sooners participate in their first Rose Bowl and defeated Washington State 34-14.

McCoy will take with him individual

memories of throwing the game winning touchdown against Missouri and an interception in the Cotton Bowl. However, this year's win against Oklahoma State is his sweetest individual win in his career in Norman.

"As a team, winning the National Championship was the greatest," says McCoy. "As an individual, I would say beating Oklahoma State this year."

McCoy plans to reside in Tulsa and begin his business career with his father at State Farm Insurance.



McCoy

Former Golden gloves champ reflects on boxing career

OKEMAH — Back in nineteen seventy-two, Rocky Pigeon decided to take up boxing. It wasn't easy making it to his first fight. He had to hitchhike from his home in Okemah just to get there.

"I had heard of a boxing tournament going on in Henryetta," said Pigeon, referring to the Golden Gloves Tournament that was being held there at the time. "I wanted to fight. I wanted to see what it was like. Who is the first person the officials match me up with in the tournament? None other than the state Champion. I fought him. I lost, but I fought him."

The bout gave Pigeon even more determination to succeed in the ring. He decided to give this rather unique sport more effort and dedication. But it would still take some time, in fact, Pigeon would lose his first 10 amateur bouts before even claiming a victory. But the seed

had already been planted for his love to become a fighter.

In a year's time he would fight again in the Golden Gloves, this time in Eufaula against the same opponent. This time Pigeon would turn the tables defeating the opponent who had given him his first loss.

Pigeon continued with the sport and began to claim some championships of his own, winning the Golden Gloves State Middleweight Championship in 76 and 80. From there, Pigeon would serve a stint in the United States Marines, and make the all service team three years in a row.

Pigeon would fight at the welter and middle-weight divisions. He qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials, the same year that Michael and Leon Spinks and became acquainted with the brothers.

When Pigeon wasn't fighting in the ring, he was also playing other sports, his love for football gave him an opportunity to play for the Dallas Cowboys during a strike-shortened season in the NFL. "I did get to play in one game against Houston," (Oilers) said Pigeon. "We won that game, and it was a lot of fun meeting people like Coach Tom Landry."

If anyone is interested in taking up boxing or needs training instruction, contact Rocky at (918) 623-0485.



Pigeon



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Ceremonial leader
helps Creek culture
survive

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Creek golfer going
the distance

• Story page 12



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February 2004, 12 Pages

Five Civilized Tribes support legislation authorizing Indian tribes to take control of housing authorities

OKLAHOMA CITY — The State of Oklahoma Second Session of the 49th Legislature has introduced an act authorizing certain Indian tribes to take control of certain housing authorities.

"We contacted dozens and dozens of representatives, some came down last week and they support this legislation," stated Chief Ellis. "I think it's time the tribe took over all tribal business."

Language stated within the act gives the Five Civilized Tribes power to undertake the management and control of the state housing authority created for the tribe. A tribe can exercise this power by adopting a resolution to begin managing and controlling the existing state agency Indian housing authority.

The resolution of the governing council of the tribe exercising its power to undertake the management of the Indian housing authority must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State for the State of Oklahoma and in the office of the county clerk in which the state agency Indian housing authority created for that tribe owns or leases real property of any interest therein

Upon filing of such a resolution with the office of the Secretary of State, the management and control of the state agency Indian Housing authority, together with ownership of all assets and liabilities of the housing authority, shall transfer to the Indian tribe and the state agency Indian Housing Authority created for the tribe shall cease to exist.

According to Chief Ellis, the bill had been introduced in 2000. However, the smaller tribes lobbied against the legislation and it was tabled. Ellis initiated talks to have the bill pulled off of the table and reentered.

"The Lawyer who writes the bills for the House of Representatives asked me what was needed in this bill," stated Ellis. "I asked him to omit the smaller tribes and only include the five civilized tribes. I asked the five civilized tribes and they all agreed."

Chief Ellis gives state of the nation address



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis gave his State of the Nation Address at the quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council in January. Chief Ellis spoke on the tribe's present financial stability and future growth potential.

"Our accounting department system has always received the highest award from the federal government," stated Ellis. "This is the 12th year for us to receive this award. We were the first nation in the United States to receive this award." Chief Ellis spoke about the financial growth of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), a tribal 8(a) company. "MNBE has a contract with Altus AFB for \$25 million over a 6-year period," said Ellis. "Presently they are repairing and replacing the roof and air conditioning of the existing casino. They will also be working on the \$1million sprung building in Tulsa. It is time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation should have our own construction company. We should be doing our own work, instead of paying out side companies to do our work. We need to circulate money within our tribe."

See pages 6 & 7 for Chief Ellis' entire State of the Nation Address.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise attends RES 2004

LAS VEGAS — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise attended the 18th Annual National Reservation Economic Summit and American Indian Business Trade Fair. MNBE representatives were able to interact with federal contracting officers, CEO's and other prominent business men and women from around the country.

The focus of RES 2004 is to increase the economic growth of Native American tribes and businesses. Companies such as Boeing, Northrup Grumman and Lockheed Martin sponsored the event.

MNBE proudly displayed their three divisions which consist of General Construction Services, Infor-

mation Technology and the newest division, Fire and Security. Currently, the business enterprise has ongoing projects at Altus Air Force Base, the Tulsa Casino and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex.

The vision of MNBE is to strengthen the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by providing economic growth and employment. With the addition of ten new employees in MNBE Construction and two additions in the Fire and Security Group, MNBE is doing just that.

"The opportunities we seek today will provide a strong future for the Muscogee Nation," stated John Pritchard, MNBE Fire and Security Manager.



John Pritchard, left, discusses potential contracts with Edwin Beussink, U.S. Air Force Small Business.

Office of the Principal Chief...

by Q.D. Ellis

Hello friends and fellow Creeks. This is my first Muscogee Nation News article as Principal Chief so I will try to be as informative as possible. I was sworn in as Chief before daylight January 5th. I immediately left for Washington D.C. to help the MNBE secure a large Marine Corp Government Contract.

January has been a very busy month with long hours and important decisions to be made. I have found that the title of 'Principal Chief Muscogee Nation' opens many doors access in a decision-making people. This I will use for the betterment of our Creek citizens. I have a sign in my office that says, "Show me a man who tries to satisfy everyone and I'll show you a failure". This is so true.



Last week at a National Council meeting all my appointed directors and deputy directors were confirmed by the Council and by the second week of February all departments will be staffed for full operation. Thank you, to my cabinet people for accepting my appointment to these positions.

Last night, former National Indian Gaming Commis-

sioner, Monte Deere (appointed by President Clinton), was named the new Attorney General for our nation.

March 25th will be our first 'Town Hall Meeting' at the Eufaula Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. Accompanying our group will be representatives from Social Services, Higher Education, Citizenship Board, Realty and others to answer your questions and take notes or applications.

I would hope that Housing and Health might take part as well. I feel that our tribal government is ready to vote in a bipartisan fashion and move the nation forward.

My congratulations to our new National Council Representatives and I pledge to create an administration whose only purpose is making this a better nation for all citizens.

A new identification system is being installed to identify all employees with an I.D. badge at work. This will be used to clock in and out and also to make sure employees are paid for all work performed and to guarantee the nation gets what we pay for. There are many new programs in the near future and all are designed to modernize our system.

I want to thank all those who have offered prayers and a work of encouragement to this administration and tribal leaders. It is an honor and privilege to be in this position and I'll never take it other than seriously to treat everyone equally and fairly.

Man welcomed by Creek people

Editor:

In July 2003, I was diagnosed with a bacterial infection of the heart. That news was compounded by a recent breakup

of a nine year relationship. So I decided to start a new life somewhere else, other than my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I packed my dog, Simba and myself into the truck and headed for Oklahoma. When I got here, I soon discov-

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce vm estvlke. I feel that the Inauguration was a great success and there was a good turnout of our citizens. I want to thank all of you who came. I'm sorry that I didn't get to shake all of your hands.

This is the fourth week of our new administration and we have been meeting with most of the offices here at the complex. I know everyone is anxious to get things going and now that the Director's of each program have been confirmed, I feel that we can see to your needs in a more expeditious manner.

Chief Ellis has given me the responsibility of answering citizen complaints. Right now, I'm about four days behind on my calls that have come in. I will answer each call, don't think I have forgotten about you.

Mr. Ellis has also appointed me to serve on several boards and each one are of great importance to our Nation. Although it's February, the Festival Committee has already begun its work on planning.

I do intend to visit each community and fellowship



with you. I also have a personal agenda to visit with each church within the Nation. When the season comes, I will also visit with the Tribal Towns. My etvlwv is Arpekka. I have also been meeting with other agencies under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation such as Housing and Health.

This first week in February has taken a toll on the Executive Office. As you may know, a dear minister and pastor of Arpekka Baptist, John Lowe, passed away recently and his daughter Rachel is working for our office. The Chief's secretary, Melissa Napier, came down with a real bad cold and I was hospitalized. Rachel will be back to work soon and I ask that your prayers be for the Lowe family. I'm getting back on track with my diabetes and all is working well. Melissa is back at her post.

I've also been in attendance at various wake services and funerals for our citizens. It's always an honor for me to sing our native hymns and to offer comfort to those who have suffered a loss.

Chief Ellis informed me that we will be having our first Town Hall meeting in Eufaula on March 25th. I look forward to meeting with you and hopefully, we can resolve some of your problems. Hvtvm Ce Hecares. Mvto.

ered that work was not as easy to come by as I was accustomed to and so a struggle for steady income began. I was soon introduced to a little Creek Indian Church in Coweta called Davis Chapel. It was at Davis Chapel that I was introduced to the people of Indian descent; these folks were mostly senior citizens and took their church very seriously. I thought to myself, that I must be the only person here that is not of Indian descent. It made me somewhat nervous. But it didn't matter to the Creek people. They accepted me just fine. I had never felt so comfortable in church before but Davis Chapel just made me feel at peace.

I thought the Creek hymns sounded so sweet to my ears; even though I didn't know what they were singing about. Almost right away Edna Sarti decided she would teach me to understand and read some of those hymns. After church the Creek ladies always had a wonderful meal prepared so you never left church hungry. Over time I began to forge friendships with some of these folks. I would stop over by Heddie Dearson and Pat Sardi's for coffee and some of Sue Mills homemade apple pie. When work got slow it was these people who came to my rescue with odd jobs here and there. I guess what I'm trying to say is thank you to the Creek people for being so kind to me and accepting me into their community. You are a very humble, wonderful people and it has been an honor for me to have you as my friends.

Chuck Freeling, New Orleans, Louisiana

Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Ruth Bible, page layout
Jennifer Taryole, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the November 22, regular session.

November 22, regular session

Absent were: Dave **Lewis**, Okmulgee District; **Sandra Peters**, Okmulgee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Ronald Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; and **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner District.

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

veto message:

- approved (16-7-0) to veto TR 03-098, approving the selection of contractors for project 51-80, Turnkey new construction;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce;

In order of business the Council:

- postponed (22-0-0) TR 03-081, approving the "Standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder" and "modification to the standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder, part 2 agreement" between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the SGS, LLC;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 03-101, calling for the organization of a new constitution amendment committee;

- died in council (20-1-1) TR 03-102, confirming the nomination of **Kennan Phillips** to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board;

voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

abstain were: **Pickering**, McIntosh;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 03-106, authorizing the Principal Chief to enter into a financing agreement with Bank One to fund the purchase of property in Tulsa County;

- postponed (22-0-0) NCA 03-145, revising the FY 2001 Indian Housing plan as approved by NCA 01-90 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2001 Indian Housing Plan) and as revised by NCA 03-061;

- approved (20-2-0) NCA 03-159, amending NCA 93-55 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate, enter into and sign the self-governance compact and annual fund-

ing agreement) to include the Indian Health Service (IHS) annual funding agreement and both annual funding agreements thereafter;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Peters**, Okmulgee; representative **Nichols** out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 03-206, amending NCA 01-78 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a constitution amendment committee and appropriating funds for payment of committee expenses and mileage reimbursements for citizens committee members)

representative **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- returned to committee (21-0-0) NCA 03-209, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2004 and providing for appropriations);

representative **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of

vote;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 03-210, appropriating a COPS tribal resources grant match and authorizing the expenditure of the COPS tribal resources grant program equipment award for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation lighthouse police department;

- approved (21-0-1) NCA 03-216, appropriating funds for the newly-elected officials in "inauguration 2004" ceremonies;

abstain were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- return to committee (13-9-0) NCA 03-217, authorizing a special appropriation to **Geri Wisner Foley** a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to represent as an ambassador for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the United Nations in working on the rights of Indigenous peoples;

voting no were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Yahola**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 03-219, authorizing a special appropriation for the mound building renovation project;

- approved (20-1-1) NCA 03-224, authorizing a special appropriation to the office of the Principal Chief for the establishment of the tribe's own web service;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

abstain were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 03-225, appropriating

funds for the payment of interest on a loan with bank one for the purchase of property in Tulsa County;

Dec. 8 extraordinary session

absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Peters**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

representatives **Warrington** and **Parish** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- die in committee (16-0-0) TR 03-081, approving the "Standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder" and "modification to the standard form of agreement between owner and design/builder, part 2 agreement" between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the SGS, LLC;

- return to committee (17-1-0) TR 03-107, approving and adopting the procurement policy for the expending of housing and urban development (HUD) funding;

voting no were: **Lewis**, Okmulgee;

Dec. 16, special session

absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (15-0-0) NCA 03-247, authorizing a special appropriation to certain Muscogee (Creek) families for emergency assistance;

Dec. 18, special session

absent were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (11-2-0) TR 03-107, approving and adopting the procurement policy for the expending of housing and urban development (HUD) funding;

representative **Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote.

- approved as amended (10-2-1) TR 03-097, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a development agreement and a management agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and moon creek holding corporation, a subsidiary of Nevada Gold & casino, Inc.

voting no were: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Jackson**, Okfuskee.



Births

Alexandra Contreras

OKMULGEE — Alexandra Contreras was born Oct. 18 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Tywana Bigpond and Carlos Contreras.

She weighed 7 lbs and 6 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Kogee Bigpond of Sapulpa and Kenneth Billiot of Coweta.

Paternal grandparents are Maureen and Ethan Bigpond of Okmulgee.



Contreras

J-Lyn Rochelle Culv Lowe

TULSA — J-Lyn Rochelle Culv Lowe was born Dec. 17 at St. Francis Hospital to Vincent and Heather Lowe.

She weighed 7 lbs and 12 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are JoEllen Frank of Glenpool and John and Joyce Ballard of Welch.

Paternal grandparents are Rusty and Gloria Lowe of Catoosa.

Maternal great grandparents are: the late Rev. Newman Frank Sr. and Louvina Chalakee Frank of Coweta; the late Oleta Ballard of Quapaw; and the late Bill Ballard of Seneca, MO.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Joseph Factor and Betsy Powell Factor of Okmulgee and the late Andrew Lowe of Catoosa and Nora Roberts of Nuyaka.



Lowe

Faith Michaela Russell

TULSA — Faith Michaela Russell was born Jan. 17 at St. Francis Hospital to Michael and Tammy Bigpond Russell.

She weighed 7 lbs. and 3 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Rev. Negiel and Jan Bigpond of Liberty Mounds.

Paternal grandparents are Lyle and Ester Russell of Albuquerque, NM.



Russell

Eli Wayne Whitehead

CLAREMORE — Eli Wayne Whitehead was born on Dec. 31 at Claremore to Chessa Tieyah and Orlando Whitehead of Kellyville.

Maternal grandparents are Chester Tieyah and Debbie Tieyah of Lawton.

Paternal grandparents are Sharon and Steve Whitehead of Sapulpa.

Great grandparents are Carolyn and Paul Herod of Kiefer.

Eli has one sister, Sage.



Whitehead

Birthdays

Bigpond celebrates with Incredible Hulk theme

TULSA — Caleb Bigpond celebrated his fourth birthday on Dec. 20 with an Incredible Hulk party theme.

Caleb is the son of Negiel and Colette Bigpond.

His maternal grandparents are Paul and Della Perez.

Paternal grandparents are Negiel and Jan Bigpond of Liberty Mounds.



Bigpond

Ramirez celebrates first birthday

HAYWARD, CA — Mahiya Serena Ramirez celebrated her first birthday on Dec. 13 with BBQ.

She is the daughter of Sheila Rabbit Ramirez and Luis Ramirez.

Maternal grandparents are Amos and Pauline Rabbit of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are Jose and Carmen Ramirez of Hayward, CA.

Mahiya has two brothers, Daniel and Robert.

She is a member of the Raccoon Clan.



Ramirez

Sumka celebrates birthday

HENRYETTA — Jerry Sumka celebrate his birthday on Jan. 12 with friends and family. He celebrated with a meal of BBQ ribs and catfish and an evening of fellowship and laughs.

Society

Dr. Hale serving in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN — Captain Brent Hale Jr., M.D., is currently serving in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion,

19th special forces group.

He left July 31 for training at Ft. Bradds, North Carolina, then deployed Sept. 8. His unit is out of Camp Williams near Salt Lake City, Utah, United States Army National Guard.

The unit goes out on patrol to remote areas where living conditions are primitive. Brent serves as doctor to his unit as well as the Afghan people.

He earned his wings in March, after completing three weeks of jump school training at Ft. Benning, Georgia as a member of the Airborne Special Forces.

His father, Brent, Sr., a Korean war veteran, pinned the wings on him in a ceremony held March 14.

Hale is married to Monica and they have three children Jessica, Adam and Cheyenne.

Hale is the son of Brent and Bernice Harjo Hale of Okmulgee. He belongs to the Deer Clan and Tuckepuce Tribal Town.



Hale

Anniversary

Couple celebrates their 40th wedding anniversary

OKEMAH — Mr. & Mrs. Amos Rabbit celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married on Aug. 19, 1963 at the Okmulgee county courthouse.

On Aug. 23 they renewed their wedding vows with Rev. Joe Lowe performing the ceremony.

They have three daughters Sheila Ramirez, Tammy Rodriguez, and Kimberly Silva all of Hayward, California.

The Rabbits have four grandsons and four granddaughters.



Mr. and Mrs. Rabbit

Correction:

The article about Tahlequah Sequoyah athlete Nancy James in last month's issue should have read Lela James, not Lila and Nancy's grandparents included Sonny and Nannie Lewis of Dustin. The *Muscogee Nation News* staff regrets the error and apologizes to the James family.

Council House opens new exhibits

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House Museum recently opened a new exhibit space entitled, "Communities of the Mvskoke people: Who Are We?" During this exhibit space opening, a reception was held to pay tribute to former Chief Beaver and honor present Chief Ellis.

This event allowed for the museum staff to upgrade the chief's portraits and have it as the first exhibit in the Communities Room. The newly renamed exhibit space will be setup as a rotating exhibition of various topics concerning the Mvskoke People. This space will allow for the various communities within the Creek Nation an opportunity to help talk about themselves.

The slated schedule of rotation and the various topics to be explored will be determined at a later date. The tentative list of topics will include but not be limited to: Creek government; churches; tribal towns; trail of tears; civil war; statehood; and dawes allotment.

The communities will be given a chance to help design a portion of the space with other artifacts supporting the topic coming from the museum's collections.

A timetable will be published at a later date outlining the frequency and list of topics to be included within such an exhibit rotation schedule. One possible outcome from having the public's involvement is that the various groups will be able to learn how to setup their own exhibition at their own space using the vision that was contributed to the exhibition. A traveling exhibit may be possible to allow for rotation throughout the Creek Nation.

In making the exhibit space available to the various groups to tell their own stories, a collaborative bridge will be built between the Creek Council House Museum and those within the communities who are in charge of history. The museum will be able to fill in some missing information that is known to be out there within the community.

It is within the scope of the chiefs exhibit the Creek Council House museum is asking the public for information about past creek chiefs, in particular, Echo Harjo, who was chief during the last of the civil war. We would like to obtain biographical information about past chiefs to enable an upgrade to the Creek Council House Museum database.

During the 1920's-30's we as a nation did not always have a chief in power. One had to be appointed for the day by the president of the United States. Henry Harjo was one such chief who was appointed just to be able to sign governmental documents. Presently there is no biographical information on Henry Harjo. Pictures or stories would be of great assistance for those who want to share them.

The Creek Council House Museum vision with this exhibit is to offer the Creek communities an opportunity to present and preserve the stories of who we are in our own voices.

For more information contact Ted Isham, Curator (918) 7562324 or e-mail: curator@sbcglobal.net.

Two Rivers food and nutrition program

SAPULPA — Community food banks are currently being developed to help people in need of food. Most programs require that qualifications be met in order to receive assistance. However, anyone in crisis and needing food will receive emergency help through the Two Rivers and AmeriCorps Vista Food/Nutrition Program.

An application is required along with a photo identification card and social security numbers for each child. Each applicant must come to the food bank in person to receive food.

Donations are needed. Encourage your business or organization to have a food drive to collect canned or boxed food. Call the food bank if you need assistance with coordination or to volunteer.

The food bank hours are as follows: Monday – Wednesday 1p.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Friday through Sunday are emergency calls only.

For more information, contact the AmeriCorps VISTA food bank located at 722 N. Hodge Sapulpa, OK 74066 or call (918) 227-1508 or (918) 633-1916.

Prayers for armed services to be held

HAYDONVILLE — Prayer services for armed service men and women will be held on February 22 at 2 p.m. at Montesoma Baptist Church.

All churches are invited to attend. The church location is 13 miles north of Okemah on Highway 56 to Haydonville, then 2 miles north.

Montesoma Church would like to request any and all churches to help carry on a monthly prayer services for their safe return home and for world peace.

For more information contact Liz Yahola at (918) 623-9359.

Goate family reunion

The Goate family reunion is scheduled to be held

on July 4. The family is seeking those related to Athelena Hanna Fish Goate and Rev. John Jefferson Goate, whose parents were Betsy Phillip and Peter Fish and Rachael Checotah and Alfred Goat respectively.

For more information, contact Alfred Goate at (405)869-2152 or Lydia Harrison at (405) 382-6905 or Rachael Williams at (405)682-2995.

Annual wild onion dinner

HOLDENVILLE — Salt Creek United Methodist Church will be holding their annual all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner on March 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost for Adults are \$7 and children 10 & under is \$4.

The church is located eight miles north on HWY 48 and two miles east of Holdenville.

For more information contact Lizzie at (405)379-5825.

Tulsa Creek Indian community wild onion dinner

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community (TCIC) Center will be having a wild onion dinner and an outside arts & crafts fair on March 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost for adults will be \$7 and children 8 & under will be \$3. The menu will consist of wild onions and eggs, ham or salt pork, red beans, corn, frybread, sofkey, grape dumplings, dessert, and tea or coffee.

The arts & crafts fair will be held outside with weather permitting. Vendors are requested to bring their own tables and chairs. There is no charge for setup, but the community is asking for a donation from their table for prizes and gift shop.

The event will be located at 8611 S. Union, which is the first road west of HWY 75 between 81st and 91st street.

TCIC invites everyone to attend. For more information, contact the TCIC office at (918)298-2464 or Debbie Ridge at (918)446-6864.

1ST ANNUAL ALL-INDIAN MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT



The 1st Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament is slated for March 18-20, 2004, in Dewar, Oklahoma. The inaugural event, sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program, will feature boys & girls teams made up of High School Indian All-Stars throughout Oklahoma and possibly neighboring states.

Our three-day event has a three game guarantee with a March Madness feel. Teams will compete in pool play and compete in a single elimination tournament to determine the champion and winner of the GOLD BALL.

Special events such as an East/West All-Star Game and 3-point contest will be held during the tournament. Plus, all the action can be seen over and over again on a DVD that will be made available after the tournament. The finals will be video taped and will include pre-game, half-time, post-game interviews and an awards presentation. Entry fee is \$100. Deadline for entries is March 1. For more information go to www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and go the current events in the Communications Department or call (918) 732-7634.



STATE OF THE NATION January 31, 2004

Good morning everyone. It's an overwhelming honor to be here representing Muscogee (Creek) Nation office of Principal Chief. This is my first state of nation address. I have obviously never done one. I haven't had any coaching. I don't prepare a normal speech. I put my notes down and go from there. I should know enough about our nation to know these issues. So I will go ahead and do it my way.

Our Nation is financially sound. We have many projects going on now. We have many Commercial projects going on now. Our **Accounting Department System** has always received the highest award from the federal government. This is the 12th year for us to receive this award. We were the first nation in the U.S. to receive this award.

Our **Gaming Industry** is doing great. We have record-breaking months every month for our revenue. We have over \$50 million in our permanent fund. We need to find ways to leverage our permanent funds to better improve our businesses. Our tribal budget last year was \$125 million. If the Federal Government was to pull our funding, \$50 million would not last but about five months. In order for us to be successful, we need to continue with sound financial businesses and corporations to stand and keep producing.

We have just completed and opened our **Commodity Warehouse**. A \$1.5 million dollar project to better serve our people. We have a Financial office at the complex in progress. Our estimated completion date is September 2004. This project cost us approximately \$800 thousand. We are out of room and offices in our nation's headquarters.

We have a proposed educational building site on the east side of the complex. A block grant from HUD was part of the funding. It is a 1.5 million project. Our biggest project now is Coweta's new clinic. We have secured \$15 million at Bank One of Oklahoma. A bill was submitted today in the council for a new casino in Okmulgee has already been approved. It is for a Sprung building to increase revenue at the Tulsa casino. It will increase machines by 400-500 machines in Tulsa. It is a temporary placement. Construction will start in the late



summer. This is a \$100 million project that will provide us with 2000 jobs with a large stream of revenue. I met with the Mayors office to get all bridges solved to get this casino moving. I plan to meet with the Corp of Engineers and FEMA. A lot of planning is needed before construction is to begin.

A proposal will be brought to National Council soon for a new multipurpose building at the Omni-plex. We have a Block Grant from HUD for \$750 thousand, requesting National Council to add to this proposal to help with this project. Which will consist of a Basketball Gym, Wellness center, and Dialysis center. Dr. Joseph Grimm from IHS, Rockville, MD informed us how to acquire our own dialysis center.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, a wholly owned tribal business; Primarily securing Government contracts. Contract with Altus Air Force Base for \$25 million over a six year period. They oversee the travel plazas (3). Construction Company. At present they are repairing and replacing the roof and air conditioning of the existing casino. They will be working on the \$1 million sprung building in Tulsa. It is time MCN should have our own Construction company, we should be doing our own work. Instead of paying out side companies doing our work, we need to circulate money within tribe using our own money repeatedly.

During my first week in office, I was sworn in about daylight on the fifth. I caught a plane with MNBE and accompanied them when they made their presentation to Marine Corps Systems at Quantico, VA. We been waiting for a month for an answer. They pulled it off the street and sole sourced it to MCN. We just had to prove to them that we could do it. It's a \$300 million contract worldwide, hopefully in the next week we will know if we got it. But if we didn't, there are hundreds more out there. That will be revenue and jobs to Muscogee (Creek) Nation. There hasn't been a concerted effort like this in the last 12-15 years to bring business in to the tribe. We've got to rely on our tribal businesses to survive.

Mike Nalley and myself went to Tulsa to visit AAON. They manufacture commercial A/C, some as big as an 18 wheelers some smaller. We want to partner with them, secure government contracts. With the tribe they can secure government contracts and have it sole sourced to the tribe without bidding on them. The President of the company also has been working with MCN about seven years. About seven years

ago he took a lot of our people, some that had been in jail, some ex-convicts, some that couldn't find a job. This man took a chance on them, some of them are still working there. He wants to employ some more people. He has jobs now and there will be some there next week. We need to make a contact at MCN for the jobs that are there. Some college degree levels, some for manual labor, but he has promised us jobs.

Trade & Commerce Department is a company wholly owned by the tribe. They acquire commercial contracts. They run the travel plazas. There is a bill in Council, next month, for an Imaging company. Every where in MCN there are documents stored in vans and warehouses that needs to be on microfilm. Housing Authority of the Creek Nation alone has over \$2.5 million sheets to convert to microfilm that would have to go to an outside company at the cost of .18 cents per sheet. With this imaging company, we could do all that work within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, for the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation, the Casino, even other tribes. I am saving the old commodity warehouse, hoping we can get this company moving, creating more jobs for our people.

If you come down Hwy 75 (southbound) on the road across from McCoys, MCN owns 40 acres. You can see the old corrals. You will see some heavy equipment, a industrial park will be established there at that site. They are busy now tearing down those corrals. I had the authority to declare surplus property of the junk and junk cars. Mr. Chaney and myself worked out a deal at no cost to the tribe. We just gave them the junk from there for hauling it off. Before long you will be seeing streets coming up, the city has already gave us water taps. I'd like to come back to Council again requesting metal buildings to be erected there at the site. Because if these contracts come through, no matter who, we will need the space. Again, that will provide jobs for our people in the nation.

The key to all this is Education. We also met last week on the Tribal college here at OSU Okmulgee. We are going to have a resolution from Human Development to Council to fund a study to get this one on the road. And also a resolution to establish a Board of Regents. The President of the College, Mr. Klabenes, said we could possibly have students out there this fall. They will have 18 openings, they promised us 10 positions. We will make appropriations to pay their tuition, costs and maybe we can get ten of our people who would come out

as RN's, but with the stipulation they come back and work for the tribe for five years if we pay for all their education. We have plenty of need for our own people in our clinics.

I would like to establish a program for our uneducated people. We have thousand of people out there that are not educated. They come to our social services. They are on welfare. I don't know how to do it, but there has to be a way to work the labor Department to create jobs. Give them some, pride let them work, and provide for their children with clothes. That's the reason I'm trying to surround myself with highly successful people to create a program for us. I would like a welfare-to-work program. We have families that come in to our Social Services. Our Social Services program are over-run. The money does not last long at all. That's another reason to provide businesses as another source of income to our tribe, to use these to supplement our program and better serve our people. Some families have been on welfare for years and years, and now their children are on welfare. That's another program we need to initiate. Provide these young people the initiative to go out and find jobs or provide jobs for them within the nation preferably.

Transportation system going to bring a resolution to council. There's \$1 million in the Indian Reservation road programs set aside. The deadline is May 2004. The Apache & Kiowa tribes provide transportation system that transports their citizens between Camogie, Anadarko, Lawton and OKC. They are small tribes but are far ahead of us in the transportation system. We've got to set up a system possibly to have buses from Eufaula, Okemah, and Holdenville to transport people here at 8 a.m., back at 5 p.m., to give people the opportunity to come to the complex and take care of their business, have lunch and go back at home at no charge. This is \$1 million a year, we don't even have to show a profit. This is a very important program we need to get started as soon as possible.

Road Construction; in the years 2002 & 2003 MCN paid for 51 miles of hard surface. In 2004, we have 43.6 miles earmarked.. Sharp Road (Okmulgee) has been completed. We need to let the other people know what we do. I am ready for a PR system for our tribe. Listen to radio in a.m., they'll say well the Creeks are making all this money, making millions and millions of dollars. We need to let them know that these millions of dollars does not go into anybody's pockets. It is for the Creek people in the programs. I'd like to initiate a video program to all our communities, so people in Eufaula could right now be watching this meeting on video and monitor. The 8(a) program here at the complex of MNBE has created lots of companies underneath their umbrella one of that could do just this. Another tribally owned company. Town Hall meetings, I promised the people that I would have these throughout the nation, I have one set for March 25, 2004 in Eufaula.

We have a new **Festival Committee**, all new people on the committee, we've had good festivals in the past but I'd like to see one better. All Indian Rodeo, I've requested to have this advertised all over the nation. I talked to the Chief of the Florida Seminoles, he said he would fly them here, I'd like to see Navajos, when Claude Cox was chief we had Navajos, people came in from Canada, Alaska people from all over coming to our rodeos. I'd like to see that this year.

New ID system; things have become lax over the

years here this is not a popular program, but we got to have it. Every employee under the Administration will be given a ID card with their picture, number, the department they work in and a bar code. When they come in at 8 a.m. they will swipe their card it will clock them in, it will tell where they work, and when they arrived. We are going to start tracking our employees. MCN pays a good wage and we should get a good day of work.

Another thing I will need help from the National Council our MCN complex has not have any renovations, it has not had any in the twelve-plus years as long as I've been here. We have huge cedar trees located in front that blocks the building, we have a nice looking architectural building. I'd like to have some money to do a renovations on this complex. If you come out of the complex late a night and walk by one of those trees you can hear about a 1000 birds in each tree, I'm sure it's a health hazard also. I'd like to revamp the face of this nation. We are already checking on a sign there an old sign about six-foot, you can go down there and tear a piece of it off. People at the Inauguration did not even know that we are here at this intersection. We are looking at a 30 foot sign for the intersection of Hwy 75 at Loop 56 at the MCN Tribal Headquarters with a large flashing sign to inform people what we have going on, what's happening, our festival, and our Council meetings. We can program it from our office.

Gaming compacts; I've been to OKC twice talking to Mr. Kirke Kickingbird and staff about keeping up with Gaming compacts. It's in the hands of the legislature. We'll see what happens with the Gaming. Tobacco compact will be in about 18 months. I see there will probably be an increase in state tax on Tobacco compact. We've got our people working on it.

Housing Authority of Creek Nation - this is no offense to any one person or issue. I want to address this rather deeply is an agency state of Oklahoma. Letter came from Housing Authority of the Creek Nation Attorney to the Director of Housing Authority of the Creek Nation. It says that the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation is a agency of the state of Oklahoma possessing all the powers, rights, and functions herein specified for city and county authorities in Oklahoma. I haven't made this public but I've been working on for the last six months in OKC with the state representative and state senators. Lately I found out the title of the Chief from the fourth largest tribe in America opens a lot of doors, they pay attention to you - and I will be using that to help people of this nation.



There was a bill in 2000 to bring Housing Authority of the Creek Nation under the tribe and all the tribal entities 39 tribes, the small tribes lobbied against it, and it was tabled. I had this pulled off of the table and reentered. State Representative Ray Miller from Stigler, they called from OKC two weeks ago. They were kind enough to put me through to the Lawyer who writes the bills for the House of Representatives and he asked "what do you think we need in this bill?"

I asked him to omit the small tribes and only include the five civilized. I spoke with the other four Chiefs and they all agreed. This bill will be passed between now and May 2004.

We have contacted dozens and dozens of representatives, some came down last week and they support this legislation *"upon filing of such a resolution with the office of the Secretary of State, the management and control of the state agency Indian Housing authority, together with ownership of all assets and liabilities of the housing authority, shall transfer to the Indian tribe and the state agency Indian Housing Authority created for the tribe shall cease to exist"* I think it's time the tribe took over all tribal business.

Health issues I think it has been at least a year and a half since we've had a Director for Health, it is a very important position. I am going to send a letter from my office to the Health Board on Monday giving them 90 days to appoint a Health Director. If no one is appointed within this time frame, I will appoint one from my office. We had an emergency last night at St Francis. We had a elderly gentleman, terminally ill. They called me at 4:00 to request an ambulance to transport him from St Francis back to Okemah. They said they couldn't that. I called the Hospital Administrator at 4:15, he was not there, no one was. We called headquarters at Lackey Hall. There must be 30-40 people employed there. We couldn't get anyone to answer the phone on this emergency. Another letter will be going out to them telling them that someone needs to answer that phone from 8-5. We finally got an ambulance to pick him up at 10:00 last night, six hours later. Mr. Nichols informed that we finally got him to his destination.

Impacting the nation, we have a reorganization plan which gives me the authority to reorganize the executive branch. I am asking for two budgets in addition to what we have now. One to establish for capital security, I want to see a man in front lobby to greet our Full Blood Creek people, to direct, assist them getting there, and giving security around the complex. He must be C.L.E.E.T. certified, speak, read and write the Creek Language. The other for a grant writer strictly for the education department, our tribal college, Headstart, Child Care centers, and Higher Education. I think there is a great opportunity for funding.

My new Cabinet will be introduced. It is amazing when you bring in someone new to the tribe the rumors that go around.. I want to advise those that hear, or pass them on, if you want to start rumors, start them about me. Leave my employees alone!

Last, there are two kinds of politicians. There's politicians that make decision that benefit themselves and certain groups of people. There's another group that's called statesmen, they make decisions that benefit the tribe as a whole, regardless of what happens. I'd like to think all of us sitting here are statesmen. Mvto.

GENERAL FUND:	BUDGETS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	BALANCE
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	261,208.00	0.00	0.00	261,208.00
WETUMKA PROPERTY	43,400.00	0.00	0.00	43,400.00
TREASURY	4,694.00	0.00	1,152.00	3,542.00
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	65,765.00	34,903.00	30,862.00	0.00
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,903,584.00	10,994.00	1,800,430.00	92,160.00
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	722,384.00	2,583.00	666,583.00	53,218.00
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	3,082,345.00	1,530.00	2,798,317.00	282,498.00
CREEK NATION BINGO	12,092,264.00	729,897.00	8,226,506.00	3,135,861.00
CN PERMANENT FUND	700,319.00	12,109.00	324,854.00	363,356.00
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	0.00	0.00	94,835.00	(94,835.00)
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	2,182.00	0.00	338.00	1,844.00
CODIFICATION	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
4-H CLUB	10,754.00	0.00	11,239.00	(485.00)
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	1,895.00	0.00	1,890.00	5.00
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
HENSSLER ASSET MGMT	0.00	0.00	34,065.00	(34,065.00)
MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	146,400.00	0.00	0.00	146,400.00
TRIBAL BUDGET	269,613.00	0.00	163,960.00	105,653.00
MCN FLAGS & ETC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	1,500.00	0.00	219.00	1,281.00
MOTOR VEHICLE	1,774,582.00	239,129.00	1,405,457.00	129,996.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	21,185,889.00	1,031,145.00	15,560,707.00	4,594,037.00
DEPT OF LABOR:				
WIA-TITLE I	1,014.00	0.00	1,014.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE I '01	5,199.00	0.00	5,199.00	0.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '01	12,481.00	0.00	12,481.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE I '02	548,841.00	1,677.00	526,230.00	20,934.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '02	88,036.00	0.00	88,036.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE IVA	672,524.00	255.00	163,215.00	509,054.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '03	488,038.00	62.00	380,053.00	107,923.00
WELFARE TO WORK	6,410.00	0.00	268.00	6,142.00
WELFARE TO WORK '99	1,656.00	0.00	1,619.00	37.00
TOTAL DEPT OF LABOR	1,824,199.00	1,994.00	1,178,115.00	644,090.00
HOUSING & URBAN DEV:				
HUD-NAHASDA '00	6,372,586.00	1,204,592.00	2,573,750.00	2,594,244.00
HUD-SPAULPA CLINIC	750,000.00	25,728.00	724,272.00	0.00
HUD-ROSS '01	96,231.00	0.00	(6,361.00)	102,592.00
HUD-NAHASDA '01	14,618,742.00	0.00	4,272,180.00	10,346,562.00
HUD-DRUG ELIMINATION	83,967.00	0.00	(34,253.00)	118,220.00
HUD-FOOD DIST. BLDG	750,000.00	168,162.00	559,951.00	21,887.00
HUD-NAHASDA '02	17,647,188.00	6,492.00	472,604.00	17,168,092.00
HUD-NAHASDA '98	1,214,308.00	0.00	1,214,308.00	0.00
HUD-NAHASDA '99	3,465,113.00	0.00	2,973,588.00	491,525.00
TOTAL HUD:	44,998,135.00	1,404,974.00	12,750,039.00	30,843,122.00
DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVC:				
CCDBG MANDATORY '01	339,733.00	0.00	339,733.00	0.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '01	28,342.00	0.00	28,342.00	0.00
LIHEAP '02	5,911.00	0.00	5,911.00	0.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '02	189,842.00	51.00	184,799.00	4,992.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '02	682,444.00	51,552.00	505,827.00	125,065.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '02	841,771.00	77,527.00	524,753.00	239,491.00
HEAD START '02	535,275.00	0.00	471,298.00	63,977.00
TITLE IV-B '02	154,240.00	0.00	148,981.00	5,259.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '02	243,214.00	0.00	214,011.00	29,203.00
LIHEAP '03	157,359.00	0.00	155,263.00	2,096.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '03	227,111.00	0.00	65,379.00	161,732.00
CCDBG-DISCRETIONARY '03	1,513,618.00	33,954.00	505,503.00	974,161.00
CCDBG - MANATORY '03	2,545,476.00	38,118.00	1,247,401.00	1,259,957.00
HEADSTART '03	2,060,260.00	41,548.00	1,593,071.00	425,641.00
TITLE IV-B '03	245,445.00	0.00	21,752.00	223,693.00
TOTAL DHHS	9,770,041.00	242,750.00	6,012,024.00	3,515,267.00
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE:				
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '02	5,120.00	0.00	5,120.00	0.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '03	414,000.00	0.00	408,526.00	5,474.00
TOTAL USDA	419,120.00	0.00	413,646.00	5,474.00
PROGRAM INCOME:				
FEMA	4,326.00	0.00	4,326.00	0.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	41,593.00	750.00	22,520.00	18,323.00
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	516,446.00	1,600.00	425,487.00	89,359.00
USDA HEADSTART REIMBURSE	141,228.00	0.00	99,291.00	41,937.00

continued on page 11

Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending September 30, 2003 Prepared by the office of the controller

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending September 30, 2003 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditure, and balance for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending September 30, 2003. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grants or contracts, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending September 30, 2003.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved in the comprehensive annual budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the year.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **balance** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of September 30, 2003.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.

Caregiver program offers various types of assistance to family caregivers

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Division of Health Administration Native American Caregiver Support Program offers assistance to family caregivers who devote their time and energy of overseeing the care of a family member.

The program's main concern is helping the family caregiver take time for themselves so that their own health is not compromised while caring for their loved one.

Family caregivers play an important role in the lives of the elderly. Many elderly are loved and cared for by relatives, friends or neighbors who assist them with activities of daily living, such as housekeeping, personal care or transportation to medical appointments. Because of illness or frailty, many elders would have been placed in a nursing home or other facility if it were not for the family caregiver.

According to a recent study conducted by the Journal of Public Health Medicine, there is a vitally important need for family caregivers. Studies have shown that elderly with diabetes are more likely to need help bathing, dressing and performing other daily basic activities earlier in their lives opposed to their nondiabetic peers.

Another study from the Journal of the American Medical Association stated the health of Alzheimers patients is improved by exercise. Caregivers were able to learn how to encourage and supervise exercise participation of patients in this program. The Alzheimers patients achieved increased levels of activity, decreased rates of depression and improved physical health and function.

The Native American Caregiver Support Program offers the following assistance to caregivers and their families:

- **Information and Referral** — Information and referrals regarding other agencies or organization pertaining to the various needs of the family caregiver and assistance with accessing these services;
- **Respite Service** — The family caregiver can hire a respite worker to give them a break from their caregiving duties;
- **Training and Support Groups** — Individual skills training and support groups target specific areas of need are available for participants; and
- **Supplement Service** — Upon the approval of the program manager, participants may be supplemented with extended respite service, as well as certain emergency situations.

For more information, contact the Native American Caregiver Support Program at (918)758-2727 or 1(800)353-3439. Those interested in the program may also visit Loretta Wind Jumper, Caregiver Program Coordinator, at the McCullough Building, located at 114 North Grand, Room 303 in Okmulgee.

Diabetes program and Oklahoma State Department of Health work together to provide after school activities

OKEMAH — The Muscogee Creek Nation Diabetes Prevention Program and the Oklahoma State Department of Health are working together to provide the "Move It on Route 66 and Prevent Diabetes" program for the first through sixth grade students of Stidham, Hanna, Dustin and Ryal schools.

The program encourages after school exercise and physical activity. Each class in the school will travel the historic Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles by exercising in 30-minute increments. Each 30 minute exercise activity coupon is worth 5 miles for their class.

The program kick off assembly was held at each school at the beginning of November. Cyndi Gilks, Muscogee (Creek) Nation CHR Program Manager, and Wood Hansen, Cherokee Nation CHR Program, put on a skit using the Wizard of Oz's scarecrow and Dorothy. The skit stressed the need to be more active and the dangers of being physically inactive.

Each week Scott Robison, Diabetes program, and

Tressia Ables, Health Department, will be visiting the schools and working with the students in their classroom and physical education classes to educate the students on the prevention of diabetes and the importance of a physically active lifestyle. Each month

prizes will be given out to students at each school and the teacher whose classroom has traveled the farthest on Route 66 at each school will receive \$200 for classroom materials. The 2nd and 3rd place teachers at each school will receive \$100 and \$50.

The Diabetes Prevention Program also sponsors a middle school jump rope pro-

gram. The jump rope team performed at halftime of the Okemah and Mason High School basketball games in December. The students performed the different jump rope skills that they have learned over the past months. These students are jumping to spread the message that diabetes can be prevented. The team plans to jump rope at more basketball games and school assemblies this semester.



Cyndi Gilks performs a skit dressed as Dorothy to school students promoting a healthy lifestyle. photo submitted

CHR program receives award for outstanding service

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Health Representative (CHR) Program has won a major Senior Transportation Action Response (Star) award presented by the AAA and Beverly Foundations for Traffic Safety.

The STAR awards recognize organizations that provide outstanding transportation services to senior citizens. The CHR Program and the other three star award winners in the U.S. receive national recognition and a \$1,000 cash award. STAR award winners are judged on specific criteria relating to senior citizens and transportation services, such as a variety of routes, timeliness and whether transit is provided door-to-door or curb-to-curb.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been transport-

ing senior passengers since 1968, making it one of the oldest continuing programs of any tribe in the country.

"The AAA foundation is committed to enhancing the quality of life of seniors and recognizes the significance that transportation access has to this important agenda," said Chuck Mai, AAA Oklahoma. "For many older drivers, giving up the keys means a complete loss of independence. Supplemental transportation programs such as this help older Americans remain in their homes and continue their normal activities."

Most seniors use the tribe's services to get to medical visits; the second most popular purpose is to transportation to social and recreational activities.



Pictured above is the CHR Program staff.

Spotlight

"Discipline, focus, and the willingness to help others, not to benefit yourself, are required (for ceremonial leaders). Mvto, Makit rafekhonis." - T. Thompson

Ceremonial leader helps Creek culture survive

by Joshua Slane

It's a dog eat dog world and the idea that you do what you need to do, to do right by yourself is an all too common philosophy in today's times. But there are a few people who still hold true to the older values of helping others, and caring about their fellow man. One of these rare individuals is Tim Thompson.

Tim Thompson has lived his life serving people other than himself. He served the United States by joining the Marine Corps at the age of 19 and served in the Vietnam War but that was not his calling.

As a child when he and his friends/family played stomp dance he always played medicine man. His brother, George, played the role of chief. It is only fitting that now, as an adult, he serves his people in the position of the current ceremonial leader of the Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground and his brother serves as the Mekko.

The original Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground is in Alabama and was the last remaining ceremonial grounds the Creek Tribe possessed. According to Tim Thompson, in the 1970's the Muscogee (Creek) Nation had a chance to reclaim the original grounds but passed up the opportunity. The state of Alabama now holds the original grounds in trust for the Poarch Band Creeks. However, after the Time of Removal the tribe relocated the Hickory Ground and it is currently located South of Henryetta, where it has been since 1911. Prior to it's location in 1911, it served as the headquarters for Chitto Harjo and the Crazy Snakes in their famous fight for tribal sovereignty.

Serving as the ceremonial leader of such a distinguished ceremonial ground is no trivial task and brings with it many varied responsibilities. First and foremost he's the tender of the tribe's physical well being. He tends each individual's well being with a variety of natural medicines given to the Tribe by the Creator, one of which is tobacco.

He also takes part in the stomp dances, especially in the Green Corn Ceremony held in July. The Green Corn Ceremony is the largest of the four Ceremonies the Muscogee Creeks have and is similar to the New Year holiday in that it is

a time of renewal, reunification and most of all, purification of the body.

Tim's greatest current concern is the decline of the Muscogee Creek culture.

Christians started the genocide on the culture during the attempt to "civilize" the tribes by Christianizing and Europeanizing them. This started a decline in the culture, religion, and especially the language that Tim still sees continuing to this day. "Christianity started the genocide on our language. It wasn't ours and people should know that."

However he doesn't believe things are hopeless. In the last 5 years or so many people have began returning to the more traditional ways. This trend he believes will help, but alone it will not be enough to allow the Muscogee Creek culture, religion, or language to continue into the 22nd century.

What he says is needed to continue the Muscogee way of life is programs to teach the younger generations the culture, religion, and especially the language, for without the language a people can't hold on to it's culture or it's religion. The programs that are currently in place are a step in the right direction but too often the teachers are not native Creek speakers and do not know as much of the language as would be preferred.

In parting Tim gives us a good bit of wisdom we can all take to heart. "Remember who you are, what you do in life will never change who you are."

And for all those who would like to follow in his footsteps and be a medicine man of any of the ceremonial grounds, "Know the language first," states Thompson. "Discipline, focus, and the willingness to help others, not to benefit yourself, are required (for ceremonial leaders). Mvto, Makit rafekhonis."

Thompson is currently employed with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department.

For more information about the Muscogee (Creek) culture and history, contact Thompson or Joyce Bear, Cultural Preservation Manager, at the cultural preservation office at (918) 732-7732.



Thompson

EUFAULADORMACTIVITY FUND	33,507.00	0.00	29,139.00	4,368.00
ELECTION BOARD PROG INC	24,096.00	0.00	10,261.00	13,835.00
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	3,925.00	0.00	1,943.00	1,982.00
GAMING PROGRAM INCOME	40,000.00	0.00	29,647.00	10,353.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD PROG INC	10,585.00	0.00	10,585.00	0.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROG INC.	1,034.00	0.00	1,034.00	0.00
TRIBAL OVERVIEW HISTORY	10,194.00	0.00	10,194.00	0.00
LIGHTHORSE PROG INC.	3,686.00	0.00	0.00	3,686.00
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME	830,620.00	2,350.00	644,427.00	183,843.00
DEPT OF EDUCATION:				
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	0.00	0.00	225.00	(225.00)
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC '03	4,000.00	0.00	3,182.00	818.00
TOTAL DOE	4,000.00	0.00	3,407.00	593.00
DEPT OF INTERIOR:				
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	8,518,802.00	2,257,026.00	4,612,219.00	1,649,557.00
DOI-ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP	8,478.00	0.00	902.00	7,576.00
EUFAULADORM '00	261,264.00	0.00	134,543.00	126,721.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV.'00	22,932.00	0.00	22,932.00	0.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '01	14,810.00	0.00	14,810.00	0.00
EUFAULADORM '01	568,457.00	80,084.00	399,575.00	88,798.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV '01	78,052.00	0.00	52,532.00	25,520.00
LAMAR ROAD	2,400.00	0.00	2,180.00	220.00
KELLYVILLE ROAD	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
LITTLE CUSSETH CHURCH RD	157,389.00	0.00	80,479.00	76,910.00
OKEMAH SCHOOL ROAD	398,506.00	20,066.00	340,633.00	37,807.00
THE WARLE CHURCH ROAD	188,689.00	70,169.00	79,563.00	38,957.00
PORTER ROAD	135,752.00	100,000.00	18,092.00	17,660.00
OLD BIXBY ROAD	803,712.00	0.00	759,271.00	44,441.00
SALEM ROAD	156,323.00	2,451.00	64,606.00	89,266.00
SKELLY/HASKELL	702,573.00	601,000.00	101,025.00	548.00
METHODIST CHURCH ROAD	192,334.00	0.00	189,713.00	2,621.00
HECTORVILLE ROAD	1,284,685.00	125,000.00	1,433.00	1,158,252.00
SUMMIT SOUTH ROAD	198,094.00	192,277.00	3,941.00	1,876.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '02	5,756.00	0.00	5,756.00	0.00
JOM '02	478,702.00	2,200.00	467,117.00	9,385.00
EUFAULADORM '02	1,480,160.00	0.00	814,642.00	665,518.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '03	13,697.00	279.00	4,608.00	8,810.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '03	959,921.00	4,553.00	531,374.00	423,994.00
EUFAULADORM '03	648,000.00	0.00	10,251.00	637,749.00
OAKDALE SCHOOL BLDG	24,000.00	0.00	23,335.00	665.00
MCINTOSH FENCING	4,183.00	0.00	3,606.00	577.00
CALVIN NORTH ROAD	1,731,488.00	1,714,173.00	2,267.00	15,048.00
STIDHAM ROAD	450,000.00	443,500.00	6,500.00	0.00
ARBEKA ROAD	2,172,620.00	1,579,600.00	577,308.00	15,712.00
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	3,245,064.00	48,000.00	248,445.00	2,948,619.00
EUFAULADORM '99	34,734.00	0.00	9,550.00	25,184.00
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	44,234.00	0.00	2,830.00	41,404.00
TOTAL DEPT OF INTERIOR	24,990,811.00	7,240,378.00	9,586,038.00	8,164,395.00
DEPT OF JUSTICE:				
VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE	28,222.00	0.00	19,159.00	9,063.00
DRUG COURT	98,022.00	0.00	52,160.00	45,862.00
TRIBAL RESOURCES COP	57,846.00	0.00	57,846.00	0.00
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	132,637.00	0.00	47,124.00	85,513.00
EPA	40,199.00	0.00	5,009.00	35,190.00
TOTAL DEPT OF JUSTICE	356,926.00	0.00	181,298.00	175,628.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS:				
SAPULPA CLINIC-ICDBG	766,271.00	0.00	0.00	766,271.00
MUSKOGEE TRAVEL PLAZA	749,115.00	0.00	421,640.00	327,475.00
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	0.00	0.00	520,427.00	(520,427.00)
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	1,515,386.00	0.00	942,067.00	573,319.00
ENTERPRISE FUND:				
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	288,627.00	3,200.00	402,735.00	(117,308.00)
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROG	9,483.00	0.00	5,128.00	4,355.00
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	318,756.00	0.00	156,822.00	161,934.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND	616,866.00	3,200.00	564,685.00	48,981.00
TRUST & AGENCY FUND:				
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C.N. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	7,953.00	(7,953.00)
TOTAL TRUST & AGENCY FUND	0.00	0.00	7,953.00	(7,953.00)
INTERNAL SERVICE:				
ROAD FORCE ACCOUNT	810,106.00	0.00	401,286.00	408,820.00
TRIBAL- REAL PROP & FAC.	1,769,679.00	14,031.00	1,656,317.00	99,331.00
TRIBAL- PROPERTY & SUPPLY	76,356.00	0.00	88,838.00	(12,482.00)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	92,033.00	0.00	61,019.00	31,014.00
SELF-INSURED HLTH FUND	0.00	0.00	2,349,644.00	(2,349,644.00)
TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE	2,748,174.00	14,031.00	4,557,104.00	(1,822,961.00)
SCHOLARSHIPS:				
C.N. FOUND. SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	3,488.00	(3,488.00)
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	3,488.00	(3,488.00)
TOTALS	109,260,167.00	9,940,822.00	52,404,998.00	46,914,347.00

Shop talk with Gerald

Over the weekend, I had the honor of covering the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremonies at the Radisson Inn located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although none of the honorees were of Muscogee (Creek) descent, the Hall's board does include a Creek citizen, Turner Bear. The athletes chosen that night were certainly deserving of the distinction. The inductees included: Jim Warne, Jr. professional football player; Larry Joe Ramirez, collegiate baseball pitcher; and Howard Gale Hatch, an Olympic strength and conditioning coach.

Although all men certainly had interesting stories to share and to reminiscence about their day in the sun. Hatch told a story about how he was greatly influenced by legendary Jim Thorpe and his athletic feats. Because of this, Hatch decided to find some way to honor him. This was five years ago when the new century was about to begin and it seemed every news or media outlet was looking back and choosing their top 100 in different categories. True to form, the all sports channel, ESPN, named their top 100 athletes of the past century with basketball great Michael Jordan receiving the top honor. Fifty years earlier, the Associated Press writers selected the top athletes of the first half century. Thorpe, the only Native American in the group, was named the top athlete in this poll.

Hatch felt, as well as many others, that Thorpe was still due the top honor for all of 100 years. He wanted to find some way to recognize and honor Thorpe for his great athletic accomplishments. He contacted General Mills, Inc., the maker of Wheaties' cereal. Wheaties bills itself as the *Breakfast of Champions* and will occasionally promote athletes of distinction on their box covers. Hatch felt Thorpe certainly deserved this honor. However, General Mills wasn't too fond of the idea at first and it looked as though the great Native American athlete would not be pictured on the cereal box. But, when ABC gave Thorpe the top selection in their list of top athletes of the century, General Mills decided to give Thorpe his just due. He appeared on the Wheaties box cover during the year of 2000 and Hatch collected one for his very own, and so did this writer.

Basketball is going strong and get ready for another Native American basketball tournament in March. Lucas Taylor, Communications Manager, is coordinating the *First Annual March Madness All Indian Basketball Tournament*. Early reports have great Native American basketball players, such as Solomon Hosechief of Tahlequah Sequoyah and Dan Wilson of Morris, competing in the tournament. If you are interested in entering a team, contact Taylor at (918) 732-7634.

Remember to drop us a line about those great Creek athletes, local and otherwise.

Creek golfer going the distance

When Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Faith Castles asks her son Brad Pemberton how far he hit the ball today, he may reply, "Oh, around 450." Faith would respond with, "Oh, that's nice son. 450, that's pretty good."

Now you may be thinking 450 feet is a good distance for a baseball. However, we're not talking baseball and we're not talking feet. Golf is the sport and the distance is measured in yards.

Every day Pemberton is out to hit a golf ball the greatest distance possible. He is not doing it just for show or to win a bet among friends. He takes it seriously because he is a professional long driver. He has been a long drive pro since 2000.

"A long driver is a golfer who attempts to hit a golf ball as far as humanly possible within a 40-yard wide grid" says Pemberton.

The organization called the Long Drivers of America (LDA) was established in 1994 and serves as the organizing and administrative body for the sport of long drive. Long drive is an international sport that is played in more than two dozen countries. The LDA conducts a series of long drive competitions beginning at the local level and ending with a world competition level.

There is serious money to be won in the (LDA). In

2003, first place took home \$80,000 in the World Championship Open Division. According to Pemberton, the Pinnacle Long Drive Tour will offer more opportunities to win larger cash awards and bonuses this year.

Pemberton has always loved the sport of golf. He has played since he was a junior at Tascosa High School in Amarillo, Texas. He also played football and baseball and was awarded a scholarship to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. "My background in college baseball has been a valuable tool in long drive," says Pemberton. "Bat and club head speed provide proficiency in both sports."

In 2001 and 2003, Pemberton competed in the RE/MAX Long Drive Championship finals against the long drive champion of Ireland and defeated him.

During this event, he elevated his ranking from 37th to 22nd in the world. He is currently tied for 19th on the official money list in the Pinnacle LDA Tour.

The LDA Tour will begin in Dallas on April 1 and will be televised for the first time on ESPN2.

Pemberton is proud of his Muscogee lineage and claims Chitto Harjo as his great, great, grandfather. He is the son of Faith Jacobs Pemberton and the late James Lyle Pemberton.



Pemberton

Local high school player reaches milestone

They say records are made to be broken. But here's to the ones that set the records, for they are the athletes that set the tone and create a level for others to try and achieve. Dan Wilson, Morris High School basketball star, is one of those athletes.

Wilson is a senior at Morris High School and has been playing since the sixth grade. Recently, Wilson reached an important milestone in his young career. He scored his one-thousandth point in high school basketball.

The record occurred during the Okmulgee County Tournament played in January. Morris was battling their old rival, the Preston Pirates. "It took all of six seconds for it (record) to happen," said proud Father Al Wilson. "He (Danny) had 998 points going into this game."

The game was stopped to recognize Wilson and his special accomplishment. He was presented with the game ball. Wilson took it all in stride. "I just wanted to game to continue," said Wilson. "I was really more concerned

about the team winning the game than I was about anything else."

Wilson knew he was getting close to the record because his teammates and coach Brent Giddens would remind him from game to game.

"I knew I was getting close," said Wilson. "But honestly, I forgot all about it. When it did happen, they stopped the game. I really didn't know what was going on."

Wilson is the second player in Morris High School history to claim the honor of scoring 1,000 points in his high school career. He isn't finished just yet.

Wilson's Father boasted another fact of his son's career. "What is also significant about his time playing basketball is that he has always been part of a winning team," he said.

During the summer, Wilson plays with Williams Energy, an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team from Tulsa. Wilson hasn't made any college plans just yet, but he says he will play college ball.



Wilson



Muscogee Nation Council overview

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Three new programs approved at OSU/Okmulgee

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Creek Warrior close to retiring from boxing

• Story page 8

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E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



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March 2004, 8 Pages

Food distribution to hold open house ceremony

OKMULGEE — In support of this year's National Nutrition Month "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy" campaign, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program will be having an open house ceremony on March 30 from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Food Distribution, which has been in operation for 22 years, provides commodity foods to households that must meet certain income guidelines and have assets within specified limits. In addition, each eligible household must

include at least one person who is a member of a Federally-recognized tribe and must reside in a designated service area. The program service area includes Creek, Okmulgee,



Food Distribution Building

Okfuskee, Tulsa, Hughes, Muskogee, corner of Wagoner, Mayes, and McIntosh counties.

In support of National Nutrition Month, the Food Distribution Program suggest using the Food Guide Pyramid as a roadmap in the journey to: eating a variety of foods; using moderation when selecting portion sizes; balancing food choices over time; and developing a personal fitness plan that fits your life-style.

"Making healthful eating, physical activity, and life-style choices can benefit people of all ages," said Lindsay Rayon, Creek Nation Food Distribution Program Director. "Celebrate National Nutrition Month by trying new foods and new physical activities."

Every month participating households receive a nutritious food package consisting of meats, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, grains, and cereals. Food Distribution serves an average of 3200 each month. For more information about the open house or eligibility requirements, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program at 3001 N. Wood Drive or (918) 756-3467.

Chief Ellis to begin having community meetings



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis will begin having community town hall meetings throughout the Creek Nation boundary area. His first scheduled meeting will be on March 25, at 7 pm at the Eufaula Indian Community Center. The purpose of the meetings is to establish an open line of communication between the citizens and the tribal government.

Chief Ellis has also scheduled his first annual meeting with ceremonial ground leaders on April 17 at the Mound building. Chief Ellis also plans on taking time out on Wednesdays to visit the elderly at the various elderly nutrition sites.

During his state of the nation address, Ellis stated, "There are two kinds of politicians. There's politicians that make decision that benefit themselves and certain groups of people. There's another group that's called statesmen that make decisions that benefit the tribe as a whole regardless of what happens. I'd like to think all of us sitting here are statesmen." That's the basis for the above mentioned meetings, to make decisions that will benefit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

photo by Miller Photography Inc.

Creek Nation Festival announces changes for pageant

OKMULGEE — The 30th Annual Creek Nation Festival will be changing this year's Muscogee Nation Pageant to the Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant. The Johnson O'Malley program is coordinating the Scholarship Pageants.

"The changes were made in order to have a better focus on education for their future," stated Cherrah Quiett, National Council Representative. "We expect more, we need to give more."

Miss and Jr. Miss scholarship pageant events will be held on June 3. Senior Ms. and Little Miss scholarship pageant events will be held on June 5. A reception for this year's royalty will be held on June 17.

The age groups for all categories are miss Mvskoke, ages 17 to 22 (high school graduate); junior miss, ages 14 to 17

(still in high school); senior Ms., ages 55 years and older, little miss division I, ages four to six; division II, ages seven to nine; division III, ages 10 to 13.



2003 Mvskoke Nation Royalty

Participants must be at least one-fourth Muscogee (Creek).

Prizes include: miss Mvskoke — \$2,500, crown, and trophy; runner-up receives \$500 and a plaque; junior miss — \$500, crown, and trophy; runner-up will receive \$125 and plaque; senior misses — \$500, trophy, and crown; runner-up will receive \$125 and plaque; little miss — all three divisions receive \$100, trophy, and

crown; each division runner-up will receive \$25 and plaque. Miss Mvskoke will also receive a cash scholarship.

The deadline date for applications is May 3 by 5:00 p.m.. For more information, contact Koko Lowe at 732-7665.

Office of the Principal Chief...

by R.D. Ellis

Hello again friends & fellow Creeks. What a special time of year is springtime. Green grow, trees leaving out & warmer weather coming on.

It's also a spring time in this first year of this administration. Many changes are moving forward and dept. or division leaders are making adjustments for a better quality of tribal programs. I have not been very visible this first 2 months and really miss visiting the nutrition centers and visiting with tribal citizens. I assure you that it's because of a overwhelming work load but it will ease up before long as my new directors assume control of their respective divisions. My first town hall meeting is March 25th in Eufaula at 6:30 p.m. in the community center. Another meeting scheduled for April 17 is for ceremonial ground leaders yearly meeting at the Mound building. Notification for people involved will be sent very soon.



Another very important event was the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise receiving another government contract with the Army Medical Command for up to \$50,000,000 over a period of 10 years. I want everyone to know that we are working very aggressively to become a business oriented Nation to provide revenue and jobs for our citizens. This is no quick fix and will take time to achieve from no industry to a leading industrial tribal nation. Trade and Commerce is moving forward in many areas also to provide industrial development. This is our future.

Again thanks to all those who have offered their prayers for our welfare and our tribal leaders. This job would be so difficult and hard if it were not for the many people who believe in you and trust that we will do what's best for our people.

Enjoy all the onion dinners scheduled this year and maybe we'll see each other there.

Remember the upcoming Creek Festival. I asked for an all new All Indian Rodeo (sanctioned) and have been promised the biggest & best in many years. We've already been promised cowboys from several states, including Choctaws & Florida Seminoles. Good Luck new festival committee. *Mto.*

Citizen needs input for booklet

Editor:

It has been noted that there is very little knowledge or recognition of Creeks who gave great service to Creek Nation. To correct this oversight a group of Creek citizens have been working on a booklet to present to enrolled Creek children. We are still asking for citizen input for people they think rendered great service to Creeks. Mr. Ted Isham, curator of the Creek Council House, will welcome this information. His address is 100 West 6th, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 74447.

Jorene Coker, Preston

Woman searching for ancestors

Editor:

I am looking for information on my great-grandfather, John Harris Johnson (1845-1930?). He lived in and around the area of Beggs. He was married to Jennie Thomas and some of their children were Goldsmith, Robert, Pearl, Minnie, Mattie, Pasco, and C.D.

If anyone has any information, please feel free to contact me at 19226 Sheryl Ave., Cerritos, CA 90703 or e-mail at istarwmn@aol.com

Arlene Walker, Cerritos, California

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce. As usual, it has been a very busy month. Lots of phone calls, visitors and board meetings. I'm happy to announce that the Document Imaging Company of the Trade and Commerce has begun operation. They are located at the old Food Distribution building. The manager tells me that as soon as some of the equipment is received and set up, he will be taking applications. His name is, **Danny Wesley**, and he may be reached by calling 732-7763 for more information. The Document Imaging is a much needed service for our Nation as well as other businesses. They will be storing files on disc as well as putting the information on the internet.

There have been several upcoming events that I will be attending: On March 11-12, **Judge Patrick Moore**, will be hosting a seminar on 'Doing Business in Indian Country' in Covelle Hall at the Okmulgee OSU campus; On March 19th, the Nation will be hosting the Spring Celebration behind the Mound Building. Starting time will be at 9:30 a.m.; A Workshop & Forum (Community Development) @ Green Country Vo-Tech will be on March 26th beginning at 8:00 a.m.; The day for Prayer & Fasting (Spirit Wind 2004) has been scheduled for April 3rd, beginning at 9:45 a.m. - location to be announced and is being hosted by the Morning Star Fellowship located at 722 N. Hodge in Sapulpa; and Mason School will be hosting the American Indian Day on April 22nd beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Amon Deere, one of the service officers with the DAV, came by my office and a date has been set for the Nation to host a DAV Seminar for veterans. The seminar will be held in the Mound



Building auditorium with the counselors meeting one on one in the National Council chambers. This seminar is intended to reach all veterans that served in all wars and peace time. **Mr. Deere** informs me that there are a lot of new programs that are available to veterans including veterans who have served in Iraq.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for veterans serving during WWII is now available and will increase pension pay. Vietnam veterans who served in 1968 on the DMZ are eligible under agent orange because that area was sprayed. There are just a couple of benefits that are available to our veterans. Packets will be made available to all veterans attending the seminar. Please remember to bring your DD214's. For further information concerning benefits and the seminar, you may contact **Charles Lovelow**, National Service Officer for the DAV in Muskogee at 918-781-7575, ext. 6768 or **Billy Grimes Jr.**, at 918-781-7764. The reason we are making this announcement early is that we are urging all citizens who knows any veteran may inform them of the seminar. There are a lot of veterans who are eligible and are not receiving any benefits that they deserve. We need to beat the bushes for these men and women.

On a business note, our Tribal 8(a) company, the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, is growing rapidly and now includes business units in Information Technology, Construction Services and Fire & Security Systems. Locally, MNBE's Fire & Security Systems and Construction Services Divisions are supporting our Tribe on multiple projects. These projects are allowing MNBE to hire and employ Creek citizens locally and in just less than a year, MNBE, has hired 20 Creek citizens. MNBE is working with local and national corporate partners to increase career opportunities for our citizens.

I hope to be seeing some of you soon. Don't forget, March 25th, is our first Town Hall meeting. *Mto.*

Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Ruth Bible, page layout
Jennifer Taryole, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the November 22, regular session. **November 25, special session**

Absent were: **Daniel Wind**, Muskogee District; **Mae Jackson**, Okfuskee District; **Sandra Peters**, Muskogee District; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Cherrah Ridge Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District; and **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

representative **Cleghorn** arrived;

In order of business the Council:

- approved (15-2-0) NCA 03-201, establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program;

voting no were: **Almerigi**, Okmulgee and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;

- approved (10-6-0) NCA 03-205, amending NCA 92-193 (Muscogee National Council compensation act) as amended by NCA 00-58, as amended by NCA 00-157, to increase the compensation of the national council representatives;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Warrington**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 03-209, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for 2004 and providing for appropriations)

- failed (8-9-0) NCA 03-211, authorizing a special appropriation to the Tulsa homebuilders association for Ryal school Christmas celebration;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Warrington**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (15-2-0) NCA 03-213, authorizing a special appropriation to assist churches who give out candy/fruit for Christmas;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; and **Almerigi**, Okmulgee;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 03-226, authoriz-

ing a special appropriation to personnel services, administration for the purpose of a digital document recorder;

- approved as amended (16-1-0) NCA 03-231, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist two Muscogee (Creek) Citizens to attend the 12th Native American Film and Video

voting by secret ballot, **Richard Berryhill** was declared to the second speaker by majority vote.

Election of Sergeant-At-Arms;

nominated were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District and **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; representative **Barnett** declined nomination; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; mad a motion to nominate **David Nichols** as Sergeant-At-Arms by acclamation.

12th session rules of procedures were adopted.

Jan. 13, special session

absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-013, authorizing a special appropriation to the social services program for burial assistance;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-014, authorizing a special appropriation to the Robert Simmons Funeral Home;

Jan. 27, special session

absent were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee;

Bible, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved as amended (17-0-0) NCA 04-016, amending NCA 99-95 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing permanent eligibility guideline for the tribal energy assistance program and repealing previous guidelines);

- approved as amended (17-0-0) NCA 04-018, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2004 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 03-209 and NCA 03-248;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 04-022, authorizing a special appropriation to **Wanda Mae Postoak** full blood creek citizen for energy assistance;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 04-023, authorizing a special appropriation to **Brenda Lou Harjo**, Muscogee (Creek) citizen, for energy assistance.



Festival in New York City, New York;

Jan. 3, special session

Posting of the colors by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guards; **Wilbur Gouge**, Speaker 12th session Muscogee (Creek) National Council introduced the 13th Session of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council members.

Swearing in of Council members by Supreme Court Justice **Amos McNac**.

Election of Speaker (constitution Article IV 2.B);

nominated were: **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner District; **George Tiger**, Creek District; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District.

voting by secret ballot, **Thomas Yahola** was declared to be the Speaker by majority vote.

Election of second speaker;

nominated were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner District; and **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner District;

Birthdays

Cloud celebrates with skating party

TULSA —Destiny LouAnne Cloud turned nine on Jan. 29 and celebrated at the Tulsa skating center on Jan. 30 with many friends and family members.

Destiny plays basketball, softball and former cheerleader. She currently attends Union-Andersen elementary. Cloud is from Duck Creek and Nuyaka ceremonial ground and a member of the turtle clan.

She is the daughter of LaCreshia Cloud of Broken Arrow and Dustin Cloud of Tahlequah.

Maternal grandparents are Pam Barnett of Tulsa and Bill Littlehead of Santa Fe, NM.

Paternal grandparents are Ben Cloud of Bristow and the late Deborah Dilbeck.

Destiny has two sisters, Deborah age six and Christian age three.



Cloud

Harjo celebrates 21st birthday

OKMULGEE— Sharon Harjo celebrated her 21st birthday on Jan. 18.

She is the daughter of Sheila Harjo of Okmulgee.

Grandparents are Naomi Harjo of Okmulgee and Gary Mitchell of Hanna.

She is a member of the Greenleaf tribal town and the wind clan.

Harjo celebrates 21st birthday

TULSA — Rachael Harjo celebrated her 21st birthday on Feb. 11.

She is the daughter of Jimmy and Jerri Harjo of Turley.

Grandparents are Naomi Harjo of Okmulgee and Gary Mitchell of Hanna.

She is a member of the Greenleaf tribal town and of the wind clan.

Washington celebrates first birthday at McDonald's

OKMULGEE — Hunter Yahv Washington turned one on Jan. 22. He celebrated with a party at McDonald's and a party at home with a host of loving family and friends.

He is the son of Diane Beasley and Robert Washington, Jr.

Maternal grandparents are Cheryl Grayson of Beggs and Freeman Lowe of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Robert and Irene Washington, Sr. of Okmulgee.



Washington

Hunter has two sisters, Caremen and Christyn and one brother, Chance.

Society

Renee Stewart senior at Warren high school

DOWNEY, CALIF. — Renee Nicole Stewart is a senior at Warren High school.

She is a two year varsity letterman, plays the center/forward position and the current tri-captain of the team. Renee plays the guitar, drums and sings with a praise and worship group.

After graduation she plans to continue her educational program at one of the local colleges and pursue a degree in sports medicine.

She is the daughter of Kristy Taylor-Stewart and Robert Stewart of Downey, California.

Maternal grandparents are Luanna and Ken Taylor of Anaheim, California.

Renee is the great granddaughter of the late Alice and Hully Taylor of Henryetta.



Stewart

4-H program receives funds for programs

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program has been awarded tribal funds for the sheep and pig programs and is now accepting applications. This educational program is for Muscogee youth ages 9-19 who reside within the tribal boundaries and need assistance with either a pig or a sheep 4-H project. Applications, a \$10 application fee, proof of tribal citizenship, and proof of income for all household members are due March 30th.

General information sessions will be held at the Weleetka Indian Center March 25th and at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Ag Center near Glenpool March 26th. Applications, 4-H brochures, & 4-H enrollment forms will be available for your convenience. Each meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.

On-line applications are available at <http://countyext.okstate.edu/creeknation>. Information is also available through JOM coordinators, County Extension Offices, or the

Creek Nation 4-H Extension Office at (918)-732-7639.

Multi-Cultural festival to be held at Bacone

MUSKOGEE — Bacone College will be hosting a Native American Multi-Cultural Festival on March 26 and 27.

The activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will feature tours of the Ataloa Lodge Museum, exhibits and demonstrations, poetry reading, Hispanic and Vietnamese dancers, and Native American games, such as stickball and marbles and dice.

Along with the mutli-cultural festival guests can enjoy the Taste of Nations International Fair, which begins dishes from China, India, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Ukraine, Guatemala, and the German American Society of Tulsa to the festival.

For more information, contact the Chairman of the Multi-Cultural Committee, Larry Daylight, at (918) 683-4581, ext. 7278.

OU to host 8th annual symposium

NORMAN — The University of Oklahoma's Native American Studies program and the College of Public Health's Native American Export Center will be hosting the 8th Annual Symposium on American Indians April 8 and 9 in the Oklahoma Memorial Union on OU's campus.

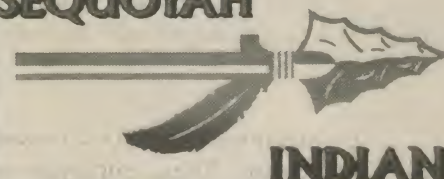
The theme for the symposium is "Indian Education, Leadership, and Tribal Governments." Among the speakers invited are Governor Brad Henry and Greg E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Break out sessions, sponsored by various tribes, will focus on tribal education department development, tribal languages in public schools, tribal college development, higher education financial aid and admissions trends, tribal gaming and public education, public health issues and related careers for Native American Students.

Registration is \$100 which includes all the needed materials, luncheon and reception at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. For more information please call Margaret Vennoch at 405-332-2312.



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www.sequoyah.k12.ok.us

or call:

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(1-888-467-4746)

Now accepting applications
for Fall 2004

NSU announces dates for annual symposium

TAHLEQUAH — The 32nd Annual Symposium on the American Indian will be held April 14-17, 2004, in the University Center on the NSU Tahlequah campus. The theme, *Cultural Journeys: Four Centuries of American Indian Education*, highlights the history, legacies, and impact of education on tribal populations of the United States, particularly those in Indian Territory, and later, Oklahoma. The three-day symposium agenda includes multimedia presentations, scholarly research, lectures, a native language seminar, teacher workshops, theater, cultural activities, arts and crafts, exhibitions, panel discussions, and other activities that give focus to historical topics and contemporary issues of American Indians. Keynote speakers are noted authors, historians, educators, and linguists, including: Dr. Margaret Connell-Szasz, University of New Mexico; Dr. Rennard Strickland, University of Oregon; Dr. Greg O'Brien, University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Akira Yamamoto, University of Kansas; Dr. Jon Reyhner, University of Northern Arizona, and Dr. Don Bartlette, Motivational Speaker. One hour of college credit may be earned by enrolling prior to April 14. The symposium, which draws a national audience, is open to the public and free of charge.

On Friday evening, an Indian School Reunion will be held at the NSU Alumni Center. The public is invited to attend

The final day will feature a powwow with a lineup of NSU alumni and staff including: Archie Mason (MC), Osage Principal Chief Jim Gray (head dancer), Lena Nells (head lady dancer), Don Bread (head gourd dancer), George Roy (head singer), and Warren Hawk (arena director). The powwow will honor NSU alumnus, Bryan "Jake" Chanate, NSU Veterans' Coordinator. Victoria Mills, Muscogee (Creek) junior from Okmulgee, will make her final appearance as 2003-04 NSU Native American Student Association (NASA) Princess. The powwow will begin at 2 p.m. in the NSU University Center with gourd dancing. The grand entry will be at 7:30 p.m. with intertribal dancing until midnight. There is no charge for admission. Arts and crafts booths will be on display.

For more information on events or college credit, con-



Powwow dancer



Mills

tact the NSU Center for Tribal Studies, 600 North Grand Avenue, Tahlequah, OK, 74464, or call 918/456-5511, ext. 4350. To contact electronically, visit www.nsuok.edu (upcoming events menu) or email tribalstudies@nsuok.edu.

Three New Programs Approved at OSU-Okmulgee

OKMULGEE — The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recently approved three technical, discipline-specific bachelor of technology degrees at Oklahoma State University Technical Branch in Okmulgee. Bachelor degree programs are new to the Okmulgee campus, well known for its technology-intensive associate in applied science programs and high graduate job placement.

Two of the new degree programs, Information Assurance and Forensics and Instrumentation Engineering Technology, are scheduled to begin in September 2004. The Civil Engineering Technology degree is planned to launch in September 2005. Each program is designed to address the demand for employees skilled in the sophisticated application of emerging technologies to problems facing industry.

Regents' Chairman Marlin "Ike" Glass Jr. said the new bachelor level technical degree programs align with Oklahoma's Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) initiative and address key action items to improve the state's economy. "Oklahoma needs more workers with technical skills that provide a competitive edge for industry and stable careers for employees. To stay competitive, businesses need employees who can forge solutions and create technical innovations."

Last fall, industry partners recommended the new bachelor degree programs of study for the Okmulgee campus. The business leaders affirmed a critical shortage of highly skilled employees in these three technical disciplines and predicted program graduates would immediately begin to fill industry needs.

Dr. Bob Klabenes, president of OSU-Okmulgee, says the college is uniquely positioned to offer these programs on an accelerated schedule. "Our campus produces graduates with superior proficiency in a shorter time frame," says Klabenes. "We operate on a year-round trimester calendar and students may earn a bachelor of technology degree in three years of full time study."

The Information Assurance and Forensics program will prepare information security professionals to fill critical positions in one of the fastest growing sectors of the IT industry. These employees will assure the integrity

and security of corporate and institutional networks, shield sensitive data, safeguard information technology assets and provide protection from hacker threats, viruses and worms. The forensics side of the program teaches the skills required to investigate prohibited or criminal cyber activity.

The Instrumentation Engineering Technology program graduates will improve, maintain and design instrumentation and control assets for oil and gas refineries, food and chemical processing plants and power generation facilities. They will be able to provide high-tech solutions that increase the consistency, quality and quantity of production and automation processes.

The Civil Engineering Technology program will prepare employees to design efficient, practical and cost-effective solutions for complex engineering problems by applying skills in project management, global positioning systems, satellite imaging, aerial survey techniques and geographic information systems.

Enrollment is now open for the two bachelor of technology degree programs that start in September 2004. The college's Office of Student Affairs says financial aid packages are available for prospective students who qualify.

Creek Nation citizens may be eligible to receive tuition funding through the Creek Nation Tribal Grant. Potential students can apply for assistance through the Creek Nation Employment and Training Office in Okmulgee. Processing time is two weeks.

Oklahoma State University's Technical Branch in Okmulgee is a public, state-supported institution committed to increasing the potential and productivity of the people it serves. Eighteen programs of study lead to Associate in Applied Science degrees, three programs of study lead to Associate in Science transfer degrees, and now three programs lead to Bachelor of Technology degrees. The campus is known for hands-on technical education, world-class equipment and robust partnerships with industry.

For more information about the new Bachelor of Technology degree programs call (918) 293-4678 or 1.(800) 722-4471. Information also is available online at www.osu-okmulgee.edu.



Civil Engineering



Information Assurance



Instrumentation

Social Services has funds available for energy program

OKMULGEE — The Social Services department is currently taking applications for heating assistance for both tribal energy assistance and low income home energy assistance programs. Past participants who received assistance since November are not eligible to reapply. Individuals who have received assistance from other agencies/community centers are ineligible due to the no duplication of services policies. The following is basic information required to complete the application process: CDIB/citizenship, social security cards, and employment/unemployment verification for each household member eighteen years of age and older to document income, and the heating bill/invoice. The bill/invoice must be in the applicant or spouse's name. Households with minor children need to submit documentation of the children's ages. Applicants caring for minor children other than their own will need to submit documentation of legal custody. Additional documentation will be required for students 18 years or older who attend high school, vocational-technical school, or college to verify their unemployment status and/or financial assistance.

For more information, contact the Social Service Department at (918) 732-7619 or (800) 482-1979 ext. 7619 or 7620.

Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard was created to provide final military honors to Creek veterans. Over the years since its inception, the Honor Guard has been asked to participate also in parades, functions and ceremonies as the tribe's representatives. As more people and groups find out about the Guard and its duties, more requests come in for their assistance. As a result of these added duties the Honor Guard sometimes runs short handed.

Commander, Thomas Yahola and Honor Guard members invite all honorably discharged Creek veterans to join in their endeavors by attending their monthly meeting held in the B.I.A. conference room at the tribal complex every second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Pot luck dinners are often served afterwards as members clean rifles and discuss future events. The group recently participated in Chief A.D. Ellis' Inauguration and will be posting the colors for the J.O.M. conference this month and will March in the Muskogee azalea Parade in early April.

New uniforms were recently purchased for all members to replace others previously used for years. Another new addition to the group is an electronic bugle which plays a realistic sounding version of "Taps".

Should any tribal member or group require the assistance of the Honor Guard, please remember that at least 48 hour notice is required for attendance at funerals. Commander Yahola, also Speaker of the House, can be reached during working hours at the council office, (918) 758-1410 or after hours at (405) 452-3552.

Any member of the Honor Guard can also be contacted to make arrangements. The group can also be contacted by e-mail at bluemoon@lakewebs.net.

Vocational rehabilitation has relocated

OKEMAH — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Vocational Rehabilitation has relocated to 401 South Woody Guthrie Street and will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Also, our office located within the Workforce Oklahoma – Okmulgee center building will be open on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in room 4A.

You can contact the office at (918) 623-1197 or (888)367-2332.

Spring Celebration

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Community Partnership Board is sponsoring the 2nd annual spring celebration. It will be held on March 19 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal complex grounds. The festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 4 p.m. This event is a free resource fair and sporting event. Our goal is to provide informational resources to families and provide fun activities for our children and youth.

Some of the events for the day include workshops for the kids on hygiene, disaster, and safety; basketball and soccer tournaments; jump rope and free ropes for participants; stickball; and a free lunch. We are also inviting representatives from the universities, colleges, IHS scholarship office, and all branches of military to set up informational booths. Through the countless support of the sponsors and the Muscogee National Council in 2003, we were able to provide a FREE fun and informational day to over 400 persons. The deadline for registration in the basketball tournament in 9 a.m. the day of the event.

— For more information, contact Missy Pigeon at (800) 482-1979 ext. 7620. For information on soccer, call Scott Robison at (800) 219-9458 ext. 458.

Intertribal monitoring association

OKMULGEE — Intertribal monitoring association on Indian trust funds will host a "Listening Conference" for tribes and individuals on tribal, individual trust funds & assets issues on April 2 & 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mound Auditorium at the Main Capital Complex located on Hwy 75 & Loop 56 North.

For more information contact Della cherry at (918)732-7967; Rachael Sumka at (918) 732-7605 or Sonya Lytch at (918) 732-7702.

Personnel department announces job opportunities

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation personnel office announces job opportunities are posted on the tribal website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov. Applications may be made at the Personnel Services office in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex building, located on the corner of Highway 75 and Loop 56.

Third annual Spring Sing

WELEETKA — Alabama Indian baptist church will hold their third annual spring singing on March 20, dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Church and youth groups; solo's; duets; trio's; quartets; creek hymns, gospel, church hymns, devotions, testimonies are all welcome.

Come and share, come and listen, come and praise the lord as we enter the spring season. If you can't come, pray that the lord will bless this service.

Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Valentine's Party

OKMULGEE — On Feb. 13, the Okmulgee nutrition center celebrated their valentine's day. Their festivities included games, door prizes, music, cake decorating, and king and queen contest.

Louise Lowe won the cake decorating contest with her red velvet cake. Jim and Lillian Thomas were voted the Valetine sweethearts for 2004. Other contestants were Mitchell and Verde Depriest, Earl and Pat Kelly and Pod and pearl Thomas, and Ben and Andrea Barnett.

Wild Onion Dinners

Big Cussetah Methodist church

March 20 — 11-3 p.m.

Adults — \$6

Children 10 & under — \$3

Location three miles east of Okmulgee on Hwy 62 & 3.5 miles south on Prairie Bell road.

Haikey Chapel

March 20 — 11-3 p.m.

Adults — \$7.50

Children 6 & under — \$4

Location: 8500 E. 101st, three block east of Memorial.

Tulsa Indian United Methodist church

March 20 — 11:30 - 6 p.m.

Adults — \$7

Location: 1901 N. College

Concharty

March 27 — 11-3 p.m.

Adults — \$7

Children 8 & under — \$4

Location: four miles north of Hwy 16 on Bixby Road and one mile east.

Springfield UMC

April 3 — 11-5p.m.

Adults — \$6.00

children 10 & under — \$3.00

Location: two miles South on Hwy 27. four miles east, one mile south. Signs will be posted.

For more information contact Ethel Humble at (918) 623-1710.

HATTIEALEXANDER

LAMAR — Funeral services for Hattie Bruner Alexander were held December 4 at Middle Creek #1 Church with Pastor Johnson Roberts officiating and assisted by Rev. Joe W. Bruner.

She was born January 26, 1919 in Lamar to Robertson and Louise Bruner. Hattie was married to George "Toby" Alexander on January 25, 1946, in Hughes County.

Alexander was a lifelong member of Middle Creek #1 Church and the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association in Henryetta.

Preceding her in death was her husband and one great-grandson, Lvmhe Watson.

Survivors include: son, John Alexander of Tulsa; six daughters, Abbie Lamey of Holdenville, Martha Jimboy of Lexington, Esther Pickup of Chouteau, Margaret & Emma of Lawrence, Kansas, and Clara Keawphalouk of Clinton; sister, Mamie Bear of Calvin; eighteen grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; best friend/classmate, Helen Bible.

Interment was at Carson Cemetery.

PAULINE BUTLER

HANNA — Funeral services for Pauline Fixico Butler were held January 16 at Hillabee Baptist Church with Rev. Malcomb Tiger and Rev. James Coker officiating.

She was born December 22, 1920 in Seminole to Lana Spencer and Jonas Fixico. Pauline married Wiley Butler in 1952 in McIntosh County.

Butler lived most of her life in Hanna. She worked as a nurses aid and a sewing machine operator for POK in Pharaoh, Oklahoma. Pauline liked playing bingo, cooking, sewing, listening to church songs. She always prepared meals, had lots of friends, and was a very special woman and was loved by everyone she knew.

Preceding her in death were: husband; two daughters, Jessie and Lucy Butler; parents; two sisters, Susie Mitchell and Nelesy Harjo; and one brother, Thelmond Fixico.

Survivors include: six children, Elizabeth and Wiley Butler Jr., both of Okmulgee, Judy Proctor of Hanna, Frankie Alexander of Seminole, Penny Murray and Bessie Alexander, both of Shawnee; eighteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; brother, John Fixico of Sapulpa; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives.

Interment was at Butler Family Cemetery.

HELEN COOK

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Helen Cook were held January 2 at the Creek Nation Community Center with Rev. Alex Lowe officiating.

She was born October 25, 1926, in the Salt Creek Community, to Reverend Alfred and Mattie Deer Harjo. Cook was of the Deer Clan and Tulmochussee Tribal Town. She married Joe Cook in Holdenville where they raised three sons and five daughters.

Helen loved quilting and cooking, listening to gospel music, watching OU football and basketball, the World Series, and Wheel of Fortune on TV, and taking care of her family. Apart from her own activities, she loved being a part of whatever her family and friends were involved in, especially getting together for big family dinners and watching them play softball or basketball, and various other sports.

Preceding her in death were: husband; parents; brother, Jimmy Harjo; and three infant children.

Survivors include: three sons, Ernest of Holdenville, Alan of Tulsa, and Don of Wewoka; five daughters, Carol Clay of Holdenville, Evelyn Cook of Ada, Brenda Teehee and Jackie Cook, both of Tahlequah, and Lisa Coffland of Tuba City, Arizona; ten grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two brothers, Raymond of Holdenville and Leonard Harjo of Okemah; two sisters, Linda McIntosh of Yukon and Agnes Stonerod of Oklahoma City; friend, Velma McGeeley; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and many friends.

Pallbearers include: Daniel Clay; Brandon and David Cook; Monty Davis; Tony Elizondo; Rodney Gann; and Matt Teehee. Honorary pallbearers include: Ron Clay; Don Coffland; Greg Cole; Jimmy Teehee; and Larry Topaum.

Interment was at the Harjo Family Cemetery.

WILLIE ELLIS

CLAREMORE — Willie passed away on December 17, 2003 in the Claremore Oklahoma Veterans Center. Born in 1916 at Bald Hill, Oklahoma to Doolie & Nellie Ellis.

Ellis enlisted in the Army Air Corps in early 1941 and was shipped to the Philippine Islands in April 1942. He was captured by the Japanese Army at Bataan - Corregidor. Willie survived the Bataan Death March and three and a half years as a P.O.W. He was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, Bataan Medal, Germany Occupation, Berlin Airlift, Oklahoma Medal of Valor and many others. Willie retired in 1961 as Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Allie; sister, Pandora Parsons; and brother, Jacob Ellis.

Survivors include: son, Willie Clyde of Edgewood, New Mexico; three sisters, Nellie Burke of Ft. Worth, Texas, Dorothy Meyer & Lillian Crow; two brothers, Richard & A.D. Ellis, all of Twin Hills; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial military service will be conducted in May 2004 at the family cemetery in Bruner Canyon.

FREELING PORTER

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Funeral services for Freeling Alex Porter were held December 6 at Haskell Indian Nations University with Rev. Marilyn Bread officiating.

Freeling was a full-blood Creek Indian born and raised in Oklahoma among his Creek people in the Muskogee/Okmulgee area. Born in 1935, Mr. Porter was witness to many world events including World War II, the war in Viet Nam, and the assassination of a President of the United States.

But Mr. Porter's first love was his classroom and the students he came to know during the fourteen years he served as an instructor at Haskell. He started his career in education by completing his bachelor's degree in business education at Northeastern State University in Edmond, Oklahoma and completed a Masters of education degree in 1976. Freeling has taught school at the elementary, Jr. high, and high school level. He was a teacher at Fort Sill Indian School, Big Cabin Public Schools, Fairland Public Schools, Commerce Public Schools and Miami High School. Porter started his elementary and secondary teaching career in 1961 at Ft. Sill Indian School and retired from teaching in 1989, after serving 28 years of teaching at the elementary and secondary level. He came to Haskell in the fall of 1989 as an instructor in the Business Department.

Survivors include: children, Will, Chebon, and Winnie Porter; and a host of friends.

The family requests that any gifts be donated in monetary form, directly to the Department of Business, Haskell Indian

Nations University.

REV. JOE SMITH

CASTLE — Funeral services for Rev. Joe Smith were held October 30 at Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Gene Harjo and Rev. Chad Smith officiating.

He was born August 27, 1919 in Okfuskee County to Malley Ahfonoke and Jim Smith.

He moved to Tulsa as a child and there he attended school. He later joined the U.S. Army and served his country during World War II. Following his discharge he returned to Oklahoma. He met and married Janetta Fixico and they made their home in the Castle area. Smith worked as a farm laborer and traveled doing harvest work. He was later employed by the Creek Nation Indian Health Services as a heavy equipment operator. Joe installed water and other utility lines on new home construction. In 1969, he became an ordained minister and pastor of the Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church where he served until his death.

His wife Janetta died December 24, 1995 and he met Mary Pigeon and they were married January 17, 1998. They made their home in Weleetka. He enjoyed playing baseball and hunting quail and squirrel.

Survivors include: five children, Betty and Jason of Castle, Captain John of Wolf, Randolph of Paden, and Gale of Shawnee; four stepchildren, Stanley, Virgil, and Ricky Pigeon and Stephanie Brown, all of Weleetka; brother, Sam Cooper of Castle; eleven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and seven step-grandchildren.

Interment was at the Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church cemetery.

ANGELANDALEXIATUCKER

HENRYETTA — Graveside services for Angel Lee and Alexia Kay Tucker were held January 7 at Yardeka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

They were born January 3 to Rachel Sumka and Raymond Tucker and died the same day.

Survivors include: one sister, Alexis Tucker; parents; grandparents, Ann Sumka, Velma Tucker, and Raymond Tucker Sr.; great grandmother; and several aunts and uncles.

Gratitude

We would like to thank the following for their prayers, words of comfort, flowers, food, cards, and to those who stopped by during the loss of our mother: churches, Middle Creek #1 Church, Salt Creek Methodist, Wetumka Indian Center for use of their building; Reverends, Johnson Roberts, Joe Wallace Bruner, and Jimmy Alexander for leading out in Creek hymns; Raymond McGirt; Creek Nation; Social Services; Perry Beaver; Will Freeman; Bob Tiger; Geneva Lamey; and Cleo Robison.

God Bless all of you. *Mto.*

Hattie Bruner Alexander Family

We would like to express our appreciation to Augusta Anderson and Christie Baldrige, employees of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Social Services, who showed much concern and who gave great assistance in the burial and food voucher in our time of need. We would also like to thank the Yardeka, Hickory Ground #1, and Hickory Ground #2 churches. Also a special thanks to Rev. Mitchell Taylor. *Mto.*

Angel Lee and Alexia Kay Tucker family

Shop talk with Gerald

In 2002, Joe Pickering of Bangor, Maine produced a CD, along with "King of the Road Music," entitled "Baseball Songs and Sports Heroes". The CD contained songs about the great American pastime.

Songs such as "Babe Ruth's Curse," "Fenway" and the "Whose the Greatest Red Sox Fan" are entertaining songs that portray a time when baseball was truly the most popular sport in the nation. For that very reason, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York recently included the CD into it's Hall of Fame music collection. Now what connects this close to the MNN and Native America in general is that Pickering included a song on the same CD about racism against American Indians in the song "I'm Not Your Mascot, I'm a Man." Maybe a national entity such as the Baseball Hall of Fame including this collection will draw attention to this controversial subject in some way, every little bit helps. March Madness is at full height. The college game leads the way with it's annual NCAA tournament bracket. A total of 64 teams will grace the big screens throughout out the month giving the average sports junkie an overdose of pure unadulterated basketball. Of course on the local level, the area high schools have just completed their district, regional, and state championship runs. Congratulations to all Muscogee (Creek) players and coaches who participated in this annual exciting event.

But roundball action isn't over just yet, the 1st Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament will be underway at the Dewar High School Gymnasium beginning Thursday, March 18 and running through Saturday. Lucas Taylor, coordinator of the event, has not only invited Native American athletes and teams from around the area, but teams from Texas and Wisconsin have also been invited to compete. If you get a chance, come on out and enjoy some good high school Indian athletes as they not only compete for the coveted *Gold Ball*, but also display their talents in such events as the East-West All star game, Hot-shot Shoot-Out, and Slam Dunk Competition.

The tournament has also drawn support from University of Oklahoma Men's Head Basketball Coach Kelvin Sampson. Sampson, who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe, has issued a letter to the tournament committee extending his support and congratulations on creating such a unique event.

Video and DVD copies of the boys and girls championship games, as well the individual competitions and a special music video featuring highlights from the overall tournament, will be produced and made available for ordering from the Communications Department.

Keep bringing us that information about those good Creek athletes that are playing so well this year and are making great accomplishments to their teams.

Creek Warrior close to retiring from boxing

OKMULGEE — After bringing so much pride, joy and just plain good fighting to local fight fans, BJ Wagnor is seriously considering calling it quits in the ring. Wagnor stated that he is 75% sure he will retire very soon from the sport of boxing.

"I have a lot of responsibilities in my life right now," said Wagnor. "I know there are other things in my life that certainly warrant attention, such as other career opportunities."

Wagnor is currently employed with Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) where he oversees the proper installation of security devices in corporate buildings. Wagnor is certainly enjoying success outside of the ring and looking to build another career.

Wagnor has said that other tribes, such as the Florida Seminoles, have contacted him and shown interest in creating a match for him. And it is that interest that has the *Creek Warrior* looking at all his options, including fighting again.



Wagnor

Its no exaggeration to say Wagnor has been around the fight game all of his life. With the tutoring from his Father, Billy, BJ began fighting at the age of 7 at local YMCA and Boy's Club facilities throughout the Tulsa area. Wagnor would go on to fight boxing tournaments as well. Eventually he began fighting in Golden Glove competitions where he even faced a young Oscar DeLaHoya.

Wagnor has loved fighting in the ring and it shows. Defining himself as technical fighter, Wagnor studies his opponent carefully while in the ring.

His matches have been known to start slow and then he would usually explode into a barrage of quick lefts and rights. A barrage that would leave his opponent trying to mentally download what just occurred as he lay on the canvas looking up at Wagnor

Wagnor's record has been very impressive, 500 wins and only 19 losses as an amateur. Not only did he quickly become a local fan favorite with Native Americans, non-Native Americans took to him as well.

As the Muscogee (Creek) Nation became more involved with hold local fight cards in the Tulsa area, it was always Wagnor who would be asked by promoters if he would fight on the card. So popular was his draw, that former Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver requested that he fight on a local card promoted by Tony Holden at the Creek Nation Casino in Tulsa.

Wagnor is still a part of the boxing world. He often helps his father train up and coming Native American fighters and often gives advice to the young pugilists to use inside and outside the ring.

Liberty player continues to pile on the points

LIBERTY MOUNDS — Issac Mosquito is finding out what its all about playing the game of high school basketball on both sides of the roundball gamut. Mosquito, the six foot Senior who plays for the Liberty Mounds Tiger, recently scored his one thousand five-hundred and seventy-seventh point for his High School career and it is still accumulating

The Tigers advanced to the state tournament losing a heartbreaker to Colbert in the first round by a score of 62 to 60. The Tigers finish the season with a 15-10 record. Quite a difference considering last year when Mosquito and the Tigers posted a 23 wins and 3 losses record, but Mosquito takes it all in stride.

He sparked this Class 2A team by keeping a 27.1 scoring average at the point guard position. This called for Mosquito to be the leader, setting the tone and tempo with his teammates and the game.

Mosquito, like most Muscogee (Creek) kids, grew

up playing the game of basketball. Learning and loving the game was easy.

At the high school level, Mosquito has started since he was a freshman and has helped the Tigers this year by also averaging 7 rebounds, 7 steals, and 7 assists per game.

One of Mosquito's many highlights came this year in January when he scored 40 points in consecutive games against Drumright and the Tigers arch-rival Mounds.

Mosquito, whose mother and father are Robbie and Rex Mosquito, describes his team as a physical one that isn't afraid to rough it up. Mosquito is helped out by another Muscogee (Creek) athlete on the team, Cory Barnett, Jr.

Mosquito doesn't know exactly what he wants to do with his future just yet, but the aspirations of becoming a fireman are being looked at. Perhaps even walking-on the OU Basketball Program.



Mosquito



Muscogee Nation Council overview

• Page 3



Housing Authority offers various housing programs

• Story page 9



Creek weightlifter breaks state highschool record

• Story page 16



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E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Muscogee Nation News

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April 2004, 16 Pages

OSU System, Okmulgee Campus, and Tribal leaders present funding request to Oklahoma Congressional team

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A team of leaders representing the Oklahoma State University System, the OSU-Okmulgee campus, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation recently visited the National Capitol to present a funding request of \$10 million to provide planning, equipment, and start-up costs for the tribal college proposed by the Five Civilized Tribes and the OSU System last fall.



OSU-Okmulgee Campus

After meeting with the congressional team, the group, along with Governor Brad Henry and other VIP's from the state, participated in a ceremony honoring Carl Albert, former Speaker of the U.S. Congress.

The OSU System and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are partnering to establish and operate a comprehensive Tribal College/University on the OSU-Okmulgee Campus. This partnership will provide comprehensive services to Native American in a culturally sensitive setting. In addition to education services, a state-of-the-art health care service and research center for Native Americans is being proposed, with participation by the OSU Health Services Center. The Muscogee Nation and the OSU System are equally committed to this endeavor.

Representing the tribe was Speaker of the National Council, Thomas Yahola and Tribal Attorney General, Montie Deer who represented Chief Ellis. The OSU System was represented by: President & CEO Dr. David Schmidly; OSU-Okmulgee President Dr. Bob Klabenes; OSU-Okmulgee Health and Environmental Technology Division Chair, Jerry Wilson; and Planning Consultant, Dr. James King.

Oklahoma State Representative Brad Carson expressed a strong interest in the project, recognizing the need to bring new education, health, and economic opportunities to Eastern Oklahoma.

Original Allottee passes away at the age of 101



Original Allottee California "Kelly" Fixico passed away Sunday, April 11 at Valley View Regional Hospital at the age of 101. Services were held Thursday, April 15, at Tukvptce Church with Rev. Malcolm Tiger officiating. He was born June 2, 1902 to Lucy Kemal and Kano [Cano] Fixico on his allotment which was located west of Paden. He attended school in the Paden area until enrolling at Nuyaka Mission. He later attended Haskell Industrial Labor Institute in Lawrence, Kan. He excelled in football and baseball. He met his wife, Winey Yahola, in the Holdenville area and they married on May 28, 1942. They made their home on her grandmother's (Wysie Deere) allotment — on which old Tukvptce Etywv is located. California belonged to the Beaver Clan. Both of his parents belonged to Little River Tulsa Tribal Town. His maternal grandparents are Mary Kernal McCulla and Peter Kemal. Selusky Bear and Nokos Fixico are his paternal grandparents.

Martha Berryhill is the only remaining original allottee alive. This year's festival is honoring the original allottees.

Amendment committee seeks input from tribal citizens

OKMULGEE — The Constitutional Amendment Committee held their meeting on April 6 with the consensus of the committee to publicize the proposed amendments to the Constitution to generate input from Muscogee (Creek) Citizens.

"These amendments are just proposals, they are not laws," stated Cherrah Quiett, Constitutional Amendment Committee Chair. "We are asking our tribal citizens for their input. We value what our citizens have to say."

The Constitutional Amendment Committee meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the National Council Chambers. For more information contact the Suzanne McIntosh.

The following is the proposed amendments:

Constitutional Amendment

Article VI:

(a) Each representative shall be elected by a vote

of the district and shall hold office for six (6) years. These terms of office shall be staggered to ensure part of the council stands for election every two (2) years. Beginning with the first election after this amendment is approved the number 1 seat in each district shall be for a full six (6) year term in office. The number two seat in each district shall be for a four (4) year term in office and the balance of all district seats shall be for a two (2) year term in office. Every two (2) years thereafter the expiring terms shall be elected to a full six (6) year term in office.

Article VI:

(a) Each representative shall be elected by a vote of the district and shall hold office for four (4) years. These terms of office shall be staggered to ensure one half of the council stands for election every two (2) years. Beginning with the first election after this amend-

please see AMENDMENTS..., page 14

Woman looking for help with ancestry

Editor:

I am looking for relatives to my great-grandmother. Her name was Mary (Mollie) McIntosh. She was born in 1863, married in 1880 in Robertson County, Tennessee, and was often referred to as "Wolf". Do you have a genealogy link or someone who could assist me in this search. I have a picture of her and a marriage license. I have no further information other than that she was Creek. Please pass this along or let me know who to contact.

You may contact me by e-mail at mvm@mehsi.com, by mail at 1016 South O street, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 or by phone at 641-673-6788.

Marylee Draughn Vogt, Oskaloosa, Iowa

Man looking for tribal license plates

Editor:

My name is Erik Boss and I am from the Netherlands. I am fascinated by American Indian Culture and one of the things I do is collect expired license plates of the tribes of America.

At the moment I have the following license plates of your tribe – passenger plates of 1999 and 2002.

Some plates I am still looking for are government vehicle, veteran army, air force, marines, vanity, commercial, motor-

cycle, and farm truck.

Can you please help me to find any of these plates? I am particularly interested in the Veteran plates because I specialize in tribal VET plates. At the moment I have VET plates from the Ponca, Cherokee, and Kiowa tribes. I am willing to buy them or trade one for anything you might collect.

Please let me know and thank you in advance from tulip country. Contact me by e-mail at erikboss@yahoo.com or Oldenallerhout 13, 3843 EAHARDERWIJK, The Netherlands.
Erik Bos, The Netherlands

Woman enjoys *Muscogee Nation News*

Editor:

I would like to see obituaries listed and church news. It's also good to read coverage of Muscogee National Council News and letting tribal members know what's happening; also the tribe's financial status report.

Overall, I rate your paper very highly and interesting and look forward to reading each issue. Keep up the good work.

Grace Dailey, Seminole

Representative compliments Communications staff

Editor:

I would like to take the time to let your staff know the job

they did on the Inauguration was great. The programs and the invitations your department made were wonderful. The way you have all worked together and making this Nation will be able to see better things that will be coming from the Communications Department. I also would like to thank the Inauguration Committee for putting together this event. Great Job!

Sandra Parrish, Muskogee

News from your Attorney General

Editor:

It goes without saying that all citizens are proud of our great seal. However, it is a crime to reproduce the seal without first receiving permission of the Muscogee Nation by way of duly adopted law or Tribal Resolution. The only exception is the noncommercial use of the Seal by any agency or Chartered Community of the Muscogee Nation (see Title 14-2-504, Muscogee Creek Code).

Montie Deer, Okmulgee

Woman thanks supporters

Editor:

The family would like to take this time to thank everyone for their prayers when Derek was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 22 months. He is currently in remission and out of treatment. Once again, *mvto!*

Teresa Bible, Glenpool

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

KoMakate. Well it's spring time and the clock has sprung forward. This is the time of year for all citizens of Oklahoma to be very watchful of the weather. As you might have heard, a while back the Creeks claimed to have the ability to split a tornado (hutvle rakko). We may want to learn that art again.

Last week, I was privileged to go on a trip to Columbia, South Carolina. I met with the South Carolina National Guard for a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding. This understanding enjoins the Nation and the SCNG to communicate findings made by them when they unearth something of Creek origin, such as artifacts that may be of historical significance. There were several other Nations represented from Oklahoma who were former inhabitants of the southeastern region.

The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Construction Services will complete a \$1.4 million HVAC/Roof renovation at the Creek Nation Tulsa Casino in May. They have also been awarded a contract from HIP to do a project in Drumright. They have also received an award of contract to build a new parking lot at the Muskogee Travel Plaza. And, they have received an award of contract to paint the exterior walls of the Tulsa Casino. Finally, they have been awarded a contract to expand the gaming room at the Okmulgee Travel Plaza.

The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Information Technology Service has been awarded a contract with the Army MEDCOMM in San Antonio, Texas for IDIQ.

The tribal Trade & Commerce Authority's Document Imaging Company has received orders and is accepting records

for storage at the old commodity warehouse. We are also proud to announce the acceptance from private donation of 10 head herd of buffaloes (yvnvsvs). This herd is presently being cared for by the buffalo ranch on State Highway 16, east of State Highway 75 beeline. Hopefully, this herd will be transferred to one of our locations in the Nation.

The festival committee has been working diligently to put together all the activities for 2004. The committee decided to entitle the theme of this year's festival in honor of our last three original allottees. An art contest will be held and the winner of the contest will be honored by displaying their art for this year's T-shirts for the festival.

We had a successful meeting in Eufaula for our first town hall. Thanks Eufaula for your hospitality and the wonderful turn out. Chief Ellis has announced that another town hall meeting will be held in three months at the Holdenville Community Center. We hope to see as many as possible from the Holdenville area.

The Chickasaw Nation is hosting this quarters Inter-Tribal meeting in Ada. The next Inter-Tribal will be hosted by our Nation. We will need everyone's support in greeting our visitors and making their visit with us an enjoyable one. And of course, Easter will be over by the time this edition gets out and I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday weekend.

I would also like to remind everyone of the upcoming DAV seminar to be held on June 11 at the Mound Building in the National Council Auditorium. Please remind all veterans of all wars and peace timers as well to come to this very important informational seminar. It might mean more dollars in your pocket.

Until I write again, *omvfkackat evketecvtcvcs ce* (every one be watchful).



Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Ruth Bible, page layout
Jennifer Taryole, circulation
Joshua Slane, reporter

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the January 31, quarterly session.

January 31, quarterly session

Absent were: **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District.

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvtee District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

veto message:

• approved (24-0-0) to veto TR 03-099, approving the alternative housing program policy and procedures;

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek District; **Harjo**, Creek District; **Barnett**, Creek District; **Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Notaro**, McIntosh District; **McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Parish**, Muskogee District; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee District; **Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Jones**, Okmulgee District; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **Williams**, Okmulgee District; **Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee District; **Fields**, Tukvptvtee District; **Bible**, Tulsa District; **Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Clegghorn**, Tulsa District; **Hufft**, Tulsa District; **Kelley**, Tulsa District; **Berryhill**, Wagoner District; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner District;

In order of business the Council:

• approved as amended (24-0-0) TR 04-001 authorizing the gaming operations authority board to execute a contract with the bottling group, LLC to provide soft drink products at the nation's gaming facilities;

• approved as amended (24-0-0) NCA 04-007, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the employment training department, workforce investment work experience program;

• approved (24-0-0), NCA 04-008, authorizing a budget modification for the employment and training department's FY 2003 budget;

• approved (23-0-1) TR 04-003, recognizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation community partnership board;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

• approved (22-1-1) TR 04-004, confirming the nomination of **James Pratt** as the controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

voting no were: **Clegghorn**, Tulsa;

abstain were: **Quiett**, Tulsa;

• approved (24-0-0) TR 04-005, confirming the nomination of **Dana Johnson** as the tax commissioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

• approved (14-10-0) TR 04-006, confirming the nomination of **Pat Wind** as deputy director of the division of human development;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee; **Fields**, Tukvptvtee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Clegghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

• approved (24-0-0) TR 04-007, authorizing Duck Creek Indian community to construct a new community center located on tribal trust land;

• approved (17-7-0) TR 04-008, confirming the nomination of

Claude V. Sumner as executive director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee; **Fields**, Tukvptvtee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa;

representative **Watson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (24-0-0) TR 04-010, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of land in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma located north of the Claude Cox omnplex;

• approved (15-9-0) TR 04-011, confirming the nomination of **Allen Harjo** as deputy director of the division of tribal affairs;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

• approved (12-11-1) TR 04-012, confirming the nomination of **Della Cherry** as deputy director of the division of community services;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Harjo**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Clegghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

• approved (24-0-0) TR 04-013, authorizing the gaming operations authority board to proceed with negotiations to construct a new Creek Nation Okmulgee bingo facility;

Speaker **Yahola** relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Berryhill** to address TR 04-014.

representative **Golden** and **Clegghorn** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (22-0-0) TR 04-014, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of land in Seminole County, Oklahoma;

representative **Clegghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (23-0-0) TR 04-015, approving the selection of contractors for bid #2004-002-3, rehabilitation of one (1) mutual help home and bid #2004-003-1, rehabilitation of ten (10) vacant Checotah low rent apartments;

representative **Clegghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (11-10-2) TR 04-017, confirming the nomination of **Charles R. Coleman** to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation health systems board;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee; and **Quiett**, Tulsa;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

• approved (21-3-0) NCA 04-001, amending NCA 99-10 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating a business



enterprise of the Muscogee Nation, establishing a board of directors of the enterprise and defining the purpose and powers of the enterprise and its board of directors), as amended by NCA 02-107, as amended by NCA 03-162, to remove board approval of contract expenditures exceeding \$5000 by manager(s) and allow manager(s) to expend enterprise funds up to a certain amount without board approval;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee; and **Fields**, Tukvptvtee;

• approved (24-0-0) NCA 04-002, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Nuyaka ceremonial ground for the total completion of the bathroom facilities;

• postponed (24-0-0) NCA 04-003, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the office of public gaming for additional staff and related costs, travel, equipment and supplies for the remainder of fiscal year 2004;

due to a tie vote Speaker votes yes, therefore results being recorded: 13 in favor, 12 against, 0 abstentions;

• approved return to committee (13-12-0) NCA 04-004, repealing NCA 94-10 (substitute) and establishing a Muscogee (Creek) Nation health system;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptvtee; **Fields**, Tukvptvtee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

representative **Clegghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-006, authorizing the expenditure of the national Indian child welfare association child abuse and neglect data in American Indian/Alaska Native communities project award for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services administration;

representative **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-011, authorizing a special appropriation to assist a tribal citizen in need of assistance to purchase a wheelchair;

representative **Pickering** was out of seat of casting of vote;

• approved as amended (22-0-1) NCA 04-012, appropriating funds to the lighthouse policy department for the purchase of two (2) 4 wheel drive explorer;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

representative **McIntosh** was excused and **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

• approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-015, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma located North of the Claude Cox Omnplex;

• approved as amended (21-2-0) NCA 04-019, appropriating funds for the purchase of four (4) security vehicles that will be utilized by the three (3) tribally operated casinos (Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Muskogee) for the gaming security's restricted use in PA Trolling each casino parking lot and adjacent tribal trust properties only;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

Speaker **Yahola** relinquished the Chair to Second speaker **Berryhill** to address NCA 04-020;

• approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-020, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in Seminole County, Oklahoma.

Education

Hess graduates from Oklahoma University

NORMAN — Jeremy Loren Hess graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2003 with a bachelors in communications/arts & sciences.

He is a member of OU football team for four years, lettered three years; big XII championship team 2000; national championship team 2000; Independence bowl 1999; cotton bowl in 2001; visited the white house

Hess is currently working as a field engineer for Baker Hughes Inteq.

He is the son of Paula Hess and one brother, Paul Hess.



Hess

James selected to participate in Mentorship program

BETHANY — Clary Turpen James, a junior at Putnam City West high school, has been selected to participate in the University Mentorship program during her senior year.

An honor student, she was nominated by the faculty, submitted an essay, and was chosen by a District Committee based upon her academics, leadership, and school involvement.

A three year, varsity fastpitch starter, she will be mentored by a University Professor from either OU, UCO or OCU in her anticipated collegiate major, History. She was also chosen as one of the PC West delegates to attend the American Legion Auxiliary's Oklahoma Girls State '04 to be held at East Central University in Ada.

Clary is the daughter of Greg and Penny James of Bethany. Maternal grandmother is the late Phyllis James. She is the great granddaughter of the late Eloise Hall Warren and great-great granddaughter of Irene Hall of Eufaula.

Root selected as MBA Path Diversity scholar

WASHINGTON D.C.—Frances Root was selected as an MBA Path to Diversity Scholar among 32 professionals nationally and the only one in Oklahoma to receive the scholarship.

The candidates were selected as part of an outreach program to increase diversity in the real estate finance industry. Through the Campus MBA program, education scholarships are awarded to members of groups that have not traditionally participated in the real estate finance industry, helping the individuals to continue their professional development and advance their careers.

Developed to increase cultural diversity throughout the industry, Path to Diversity is available to employees of all MBA's approximately 2,700



Root

member companies. Scholars receive a \$2,295 voucher to use toward Campus MBA residential and commercial real estate finance distance-learning and classroom-based courses, audio programs, resources and publications.

Root is currently working for Housing Authority for the city of Tulsa and former senior loan officer for the mortgage assistance program at the Muscogee Creek Nation housing authority.

Births

Mercedes Don Dunn

OKMULGEE — Mercedes Don Dunn was born Dec. 21 at Okmulgee Memorial hospital to George and Lisa Dunn.

She weighed 6 lbs and 9 ounces and was 19.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Ivalene Tottress of Grayson and John Tottress of Boynton.

Paternal grandparents are George Sr. and Barbara Dunn of Morris.

Maternal great grandparents are the late John Melton and Ivaline Melton of Grayson.

Paternal great grandparents are Eliza Sanders and Charlie Holcomb of Tahlequah.

Albert Wayne Fixico Jr.

OKMULGEE — Albert Wayne Fixico Jr. was born Feb. 2 to Sharon Harjo and Albert Fixico Sr.

Maternal grandmother is Sheila Harjo of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandmother is Eloise Fixico of Tecumseh.

Maternal great grandparents are Naomi Harjo of Okmulgee and Gary Mitchell of Hanna.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Oscar Fixico and Emma Fixico of Tecumseh.

Albert Jr. has one brother, Lesley Harjo and one sister, Shayln Proctor.

Raelia Faye Morgan

OKMULGEE — Raelia Faye Morgan was born Oct. 20 at Okmulgee Memorial hospital to Angela Garner and Victor Morgan.

She weighed 8 lbs and 6 ounces and was 21.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandmother is Susie Garner of Okmulgee



Dunn



Fixico



Morgan

Paternal grandparents are Dinah and Dennis Mitchell of Okmulgee and Sammy VanWoogheburg of McAlester.

Great grandparents are Laverne and Emanuel Potter and Homer Bud Garner of Okmulgee and Pauline and the late Dan Morgan. She has one sister, Jenetra.

Birthdays

Blackbear celebrates with Care Bear theme

OKMULGEE — Madelyn Blackbear turned three on Jan. 23 with a Care Bear party at her home with family and friends.

She is the daughter of Farrel and Twyla Blackbear.

Maternal grandparents are James and Delores Mosquito of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Thomasine Long of Okmulgee and Rex Blackbear of Watonga. Madelyn has three sisters, Makayla, Raven and Autumn and one brother, Ira.



Blackbear

Girl celebrates with Strawberry Shortcake theme

OKMULGEE — Raven Blackbear celebrated her fourth birthday on Feb. 22 with a Strawberry Shortcake party at Mazzio's with family and friends.

She is the daughter of Farrel and Twyla Blackbear.

Maternal grandparents are James and Delores Mosquito of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Thomasine Long of Okmulgee and Rex Blackbear of Watonga. Raven has three sisters, Makayla, Madelyn and Autumn and one brother, Ira.



Blackbear

Hamilton celebrates fifth birthday

GLENPOOL — Derek William Hamilton celebrated his fifth birthday Nov. 3 at his home with family and friends.

Derek attends the Tulsa Creek Nation Head Start.

He is the son of Teresa Bible of Glenpool and Damon Hamilton of Owasso. Maternal grandparents is Norma Bible of Okmulgee and the late Burtis Bible.

Hamilton has three older sister, Sarah Micco, Balynda Bible and Taylor McClellan.



Hamilton

McClellan celebrated her 14th birthday

GLENPOOL— Taylor Elizabeth McClellan celebrated her 14th birthday on Jan. 6 at her home with family and friends.

She is in the eight grade at Glenpool middle school where she is active in the Native American Student Association.

Taylor is the daughter of Teresa Bible of Glenpool and Billy McClellan Sr. of Agra.

Maternal grandparents are Norma Bible of Okmulgee and the late Burtis Bible.

Paternal grandparents are Frank McClellan Sr. of Shawnee and the late Elvina McClellan.

Taylor is a member of Grave Creek Indian Baptist church in Hitchita.



McClellan

Boys celebrate birthdays

HENRYETTA— Asa James Mitchell celebrate his second birthday on Feb. 20 with Finding Nemo theme with friends and family.

Silas Wayne Mitchell celebrated his fifth birthday on March 20 with a Ninja Turtle birthday.

Both are the sons of Dennis Jr. and Shannon Mitchell.

Maternal grandparents are Rev. Marvin and Sharon Lowe of Weleetka.

Paternal grandparents are Dennis Sr. and Dinah Mitchell both of Okmulgee.



S. and A. Mitchell

Society

Mvskoke senior active in community

HENRYETTA — Geneva Burgess Harris is a retired registered nurse. She is a graduate from the University of Oklahoma and nurse practitioner program. She retains her license for just in case.

She is a member in Chapter AP, PEO, a philanthropic, educational, international women's organization. They aid in women's education throughout the world. Geneva has served three years as president and has served as correspondence secretary. Geneva is a member of the Ithana study club and has served as president and various offices over the years. She is currently the secretary.



Harris

Geneva is a member of the Okmulgee County Home & Community Education (HCE) at the Henryetta Branch. She is the current vice-president. She has written a grant for Save a Life and was awarded \$250 for Healthy Living in 2003. She has won two heart of HCE in 2004. One from Oklahoma HCE on March 18, and the second from Okmulgee County HCE in Okmulgee on March 4. She has won blue ribbons for projects entered in the county fair.

Harris is a business woman in which she is a Southern Living at home consultant. She attends the church of Christ in Henryetta. She served for many years as a Sunday school teacher. She is married to R.H. for 53 years. They have two children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She is daughter of Flora and the late Dan Burgess and the granddaughter of the late James and Susanna Burgess.

Tottress wins Tulsa Metro Lions Club baby show

TULSA — Jaebri Evonne Tottress was crowned Queen in her age group at the Tulsa Metro Lions Club baby show held on Feb. 22. Tottress did very well through all the divisions of the baby show competition.

Jaebri is the daughter of Kermitta Harris-Tottress of Okmulgee and Johnathan Tottress of Henryetta.



Tottress

McClain celebrates 50th anniversary

BIXBY — Bill and Sarah McClain celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 3.

Bill is a retired produce wholesale and retail store owner. Before that he was a farmer and worked for Sun Oil.

Sarah worked by his side and was also a homemaker. They reside in Leonard.

The McClain's have three children and six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



McClain

Beavers leads team to national championship game

SOUTHPORT, N.C. — Whit Beavers led the Mott Landscaping Bengals to the Pop Warner National Championship game.

Beavers, who recently celebrated his 14th birthday, has been a starter at quar-



Beavers

terback for four years. "We've been together since we were real young," said Beavers. The Bengals are only the second team in Wilmington's history to advance to the championship game.

The Bengals have already won the state championship and beaten the Alabama champions when they traveled to Norfolk, Virginia. The Bengals will play against the Pacific-Northwest champion.

Engagements

Thomas and Bear to exchange vows

OKMULGEE — Stephanie Thomas of Liberty Mounds and Leland J. Bear of Dustin are proud to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding set for April 17 at the Harvest Community church in Okmulgee. Bart Kelley of Glenpool will be performing the ceremony.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Sam Thomas and the granddaughter of Claude and Beverly Thomas, all of Liberty Mounds.

She is a 1999 graduate of Liberty Mounds high school where she played softball, was a cheerleader and a member of FHA.

Stephanie is currently attending Metropolitan College in Tulsa, working on a bachelor's degree to become a paralegal. She is currently employed at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Judicial department as the court clerk.

The groom-elect is the son of Ima Bear of St. Louis, Mo. and the grandson of Betty Bear of Dustin and Buster Bear Sr. of Henryetta. He is a 1992 graduate of Dustin high school where he played basketball.

He attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, N.M. and is currently employed at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse department.

The couple plan to reside in Liberty Mounds after they return from their honeymoon on Padre Island.



Thomas and Bear

Boulter and Smith to wed

MUSKOGEE — Mr. & Mrs. Dave Boulter and Mr. & Mrs. David Smith Jr. wish to announce the engagement of Brooke Renee' Boulter and Beau david Smith.

The ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. April 17 at the Bacone college chapel, 2299 Old Bacone Rd.

With a reception immediately following at the Muskogee country club.

Brooke is a student at U.C.O. in Edmond and works part time.

She is the granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Millard Scott, of Greens Ferry, AR. and Mr & Mrs. Bob Boulter of Oklahoma City.



Boulter and Smith

Election Board

The following registered precinct voters need to contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board office at (918) 732-7684.

Abel, Audie Dell	Bear, Clifford Franklin	Boyd, Joan	Canard, Joe Kinsley	Dan, Andrea Renee	Efurd, Vicki Elaine	Francis, Wilma Fay	Haley, Tracy Lyn
Abel, Margaret Alice	Bear, Birdie Lee	Booth, David Anthony	Canard, Mary Gwyn	Dan, Demetrice Larose	Ellis, Susan Deann	Fraser, William Lamey	Halford, Vicki Lynn
Adams, Gary Wayne	Bear, Clara Christine	Bowen, Hazel May	Canmona, Lorraine M.	Dan, Jacquelyn Marie	Ellis, Willie	Frazier, Sandra Jean	Halium, Nellie G
Adams, Mark Stefan	Bear, Deborah Diane	Bradley, Brian Alan	Carnell, Jimmy Dell	Dan, Michael Lovis	Embrey, William Ray	Froman, Martha Jean	Hall, Angela Louise
Adkins, Johnnie Mae	Bear, Ivan Eugene	Branch, John Billy	Carnell, Mary	Dan, Nora Jean	Emerson, Stephen	Fry, Roley	Hall, Mary Ann
Aguilar, Julie DeAnn	Bear, James Nelson	Branum, Ella Danell	Carreno, Addie Mae	Dan, Raymond	Epperson, Abbie	Frye, Carol Jean	Hall, Pamela Sue
Akers, Donald Gene	Bear, Kelly Renee	Bridges, Elizabeth Ann	Carter, Betty June	Dan, Raymond William	Epperley, Jennie	Frye, James Wallace	Hamilton, Lisa E.
Akers, Thomas	Bear, Loretta Jane	Breedlove, Patricia D.	Carter, Brenda Lee	Dan, Willie Leugene	Ervin, Louella Ann	Frye, Janice	Hanna, Deanne Lou
Archer, Claude Morton	Bear, Marvin Bruce	Bricker, Virgil Dean	Carpenter, Jeanne	Davis, Carolyn	Ervin, Marie Ann	Frye, Robert	Hardin, David Ray
Alexander, Anita Kay	Bear, Naomi Lee	Brisson, Randal Roy	Cash, Paula Jean	Davis, Christopher Lee	Erwin, Helen	Frye, Samuel Emarthle	Hardridge, Benjamin D.
Alexander, John Sr.	Bear, Sheila Denise	Britt, Sharon Gaye	Cazenave, Jacquelyn T.	Davis, Dale Spencer	Escoe, Emery	Frye, William	Harjo, Betsy Lorene
Alexander, Rick R.	Beaver, Cora Ann	Britt, Gary Wayne	Chalakee, Fannie Mae	Davis, Dortha Mae	Eslick, Darlene E.	Gambler, Quinn A.	Harjo, Betty
Allen, Kendell Trent	Beaver, John Ross	Brown, Alice	Chalakee, Mary E.	Davis, Jackie Floyd	Eslick, Jeremiah Miller	Gambler, Wade Martin	Harjo, Billy Jean
Alley, Wilma Gene	Beaver, Mark Steven	Brown, Barbara Jane	Chalakee, Thomas L.	Davis, Kogee Marie	Eslick, Joseph Neal	Garland, Juanita Gail	Harjo, Bruce Allen
Anderson, Darren E.	Beaver, Mitchell Byar	Brown, Betty Jean	Chamberlain, Marion P.	Davis, Mack Jr.	Estep, Lisa Marie	Gaston, Walter Prentis	Harjo, Charles Wallace
Anderson, Derrick E.	Beaver, Sally Jo	Brown, Cynthia Sue	Chapman, Leona	Davis, Pamela Gail	Ewens, Mildred L.	Gay, Charlene Denise	Harjo, Elmer Jr.
Anderson, Elizabeth N.	Beaver, Sheldon Ray	Brown, Dane Ray	Chapman, Robyn M.	Davis, Pamela Kay	Ewton, Andrew Martin	Gay, Eva Ruth	Harjo, Elmer Lee Jr.
Anderson, Gregory G	Beaver, Ward Allen Sr.	Brown, Eugene	Chastain, David Lee	Davis, Roy Lee	Evans, Barbara Jean	Gentry, Michael L.	Harjo, Eugene
Anderson, Herod James	Beard, Henry James	Brown, Felicia Faye	Checotah, Daniel Ray	Davis, Stanley Jerome	Factor, Mose Joe	Ghobadi, Marcia Jane	Harjo, Floyd Wayne
Anderson, Karen Lynn	Beene, Jesse Don	Brown, Franklin Eddie	Checotah, Everett	Day, Chowela Danie	Factor, Nancy Jean	Gibbons, Gale Jane	Harjo, Glenn Dale
Anderson, Rolie Lynn	Bell, Martha Sue	Brown, Fredrick Elliot	Checotah, Etta Marie	Dear, Wendy Renee	Fairchilds, Kenneth J.	Gibson, Bonnie Evelyn	Harjo, Helen Marie
Anderson, Robert M.	Bemo, Anna Mae	Brown, Jacqueline	Checotah, Roman	Deer, Marilyn Sue	Feeling, Mary Neil	Gibson, Bobbie Jean	Harjo, Jack Lee
Anderson, Susan	Benally Eli Hosteen	Brown, Lydia Ann	Checotah, Vickie Lynn	Deere, Aurelia Jan	Feeling, Stella Faye	Gibson, Jimmy Roy	Harjo, Jerry Lee
Anderson, William Ray	Ben, Betty Jo	Brown, Marcus Jerome	Cheek, Kristie Ann	Deere, Edwin Joe	Felix, Daniel Kent	Gibson, Nina Esther	Harjo, Jimmy Lee
Antelope, Yvonne	Benson, Kevan Ray	Brown, Monte Eugene	Cheek, Tim Wayne	Deere, Enid Lynne	Felix, David Gerald	Gibson, Regina Jeanine	Harjo, Joyce Elaine
Armstrong, Wynona Sue	Bernard, Bernadine	Brown, Nicole Diane	Cheek, Weaver Wesley	Deere, Louise	Felix, Garry Lee	Giles, Thomas E. Jr.	Harjo, Johnny Lee
Arpoika, Brad Lee	Bernard, Louvina Jane	Brown, Randall Cordell	Cherry, Della Jane	Deere, Sallie	Ferguson, Cherokee C.	Gilyard, Ella Lorraine	Harjo, Joshua Amos
Arpoika, Lenda Fay	Bernard, Ruby Lee	Brown, Regina Ann	Chesser, Natalie Dawn	Deere, Samuel Ray	Ferguson, Ester Marie	Gilroy, Joseph Ray	Harjo, Karen Kaye
Asbury, Donnie	Bernard, William P.	Brown, Roy Robert	Chisholm, Linda Sue	Deere, Tom Dean	Fields, Albert John	Ginn, Kim Frances	Harjo, Lenora Sue
Aten, Selena Jean	Berry, John Wesley	Brown, Timothy Ray	Chisholm, Nancy U.	Deere, Wilson	Fields, Alexander W.	Givens, Agnes Marie	Harjo, Leonard Joe
Atkins, Carlos Wayne	Berry, Lanita Lynn	Brownfield, Fredrick II	Chotkey, Billy	Deerinwater, Lee Ann	Fields, Brandi Lecher	Givens, Donna	Harjo, Mary Ann
Atkins, Paula Elaine	Berryhill, Aaron Easton	Brossett, Mary Evelyn	Chupco, Sammy Don	Deerinwater, Lisa Ann	Fields, Frankie Star	Givens, Jessie	Harjo, Nelson J.
Atterberry, Martina Jo	Berryhill, Allen Duel	Bruner, Albert	Cindle, Randy Allen	Deereinwater Rosalie	Fields, Judy Melissa	Givens, Lenoa	Harjo, Newman Jr.
Aultman, Christopher	Berryhill, Anderson III	Bruner, Amy	Clark, Michael Allan	Deems, Lisa Ann	Fish, Dale Frazier	Givens, Melody Misty	Harjo, Norman Alex
Aultman, Julie Michille	Berryhill, Chubby Riely	Bruner, Beatrice C.	Clay, Sharon Ranette	Demmitt, Danny M.	Fish, Elmer	Givens, Michael Joe	Harjo, Patsy Clara
Aynes, Sandra Fay	Berryhill, Eric Franklin	Bruner, Billy Jo	Cloon, Verma Lee	Denton, Steven Lewis	Fish, Leonard Wayne	Glasgow, Doris Marie	Harjo, Ryan Bradley
Ballard, Gena Gay	Berryhill, Eugene Rex	Bruner, Deborah Kaye	Coachman, Joseph	Deo, Daniel Nokose	Fish, Lucinda Lynn	Gobin, Tanya Sue	Harjo, Robert Michael
Baldrige, Shawn David	Berryhill, Gino Robert	Bruner, Elsie Mae	Coates, Dennis	Deo, Wallace	Fisher, Brenda Joyce	Goines, Dovie	Hajro, Roberta Kay
Bannister, Margaret E.	Berryhill, Janice	Bruner, James Lee	Coates, Ruby Anne	Dill, Martana Kaye	Fisher, Charles Gene	Golden, Mark Tahmar	Harjo, Sandra Elaine
Banks, Rena Kaye	Berryhill, Jim Thrope	Bruner, Leslie Edward	Coker, Elizabeth	Dixon, Barbara Elouise	Fisher, Christopher N.	Golden, Stephanie Aline	Harjo, Sheila Lynn
Baker, Leon	Berryhill, Nicole M.	Bruner, Louvina Marie	Colbert, Gary Lee	Dixon, Gregory Ben	Fisher, Clement Weldon	Goudeau, Freddie	Harjo, Stanley Eugene
Baker, Tana Jean	Berryhill, Shirley Ann	Bruner, Nora Jane	Colbert, Leah Jean	Dobson, Hal Turner	Fisher, Ina	Gouge, Charles Allen	Harjo, Stanley Lee
Barber, Linda Jane	Best, Ernest Gerald	Bryant, Ronald Gene	Colbert, Kenneth Dale	Dominic, John Freeland	Fitzgerald, John Alan	Graham, Lajoya A.	Harjo, Tommy Lee
Barnes, Eugene	Bevenue, Yvonne M.	Bruner, Richard	Cole, Jamie Lee	Dominic, Patricia Ann	Fixico, Benny Dale	Grant, Dilleard Robert	Harjo, Terry Lynn
Barnes, Lesa Marie	Bible, Robert Lee	Bruner, Rudolph	Compier, Kizzie	Dominic, Rachel Diane	Fixico, Billy Jo	Grant, Rena Mae	Harjo, Thomas Leslie
Barnes, Reashinda Jo	Bible, Sharalee	Bruner, Sarah Marie	Compton, Richard	Douglas, Bruce Wayne	Fixico, Della Louise	Gray, Esther Rae	Harjo, Wanda Jane
Barnes, Barney Lee	Bigpond, Negiel Sr.	Bruner, Thomas Ray	Conley, Mary Ellen	Douglas, Donna Deloris	Fixico, Easter S. III	Gray, Foster Jr.	Harjo, Wiley William
Barnett, Benny George	Bigpond, Timothy A.	Buck, Alice Eugeria	Coon, Bonita Kay	Douglas, Stanley Earl	Fixico, Helen	Gray, Jacqueline	Harjo, Woodrow
Barnett, Darrell Marcus	Billy, Daniel	Buck, Alicia Lynnette	Coonhead, Cheryl	Dowling, Zenas T. Jr.	Fixico, Kenneth Lee	Grayson, Bamabas H.	Harley, Wilma Faye
Barnett, Elliot	Billie, Dianna Lynn	Buck, Bernita Ruth	Cooper, Candace Marie	Downum, Sobra Kaye	Fixico, Lillian Verman	Grayson, Martha	Harper, Connie Sue
Barnett, Eddie	Billy, Esther	Buck, Freda Sue	Cooper, Henry Glen	Dovie, Jack	Fixico, Melanie Dawn	Grayson, Nancy	Harper, Henry Albert
Barnett, Eliza Maxine	Billy, Celia Ann	Buck, Renee	Cooper, Jennie Marie	Doyle, Kevin Brett	Fixico, Minnie E.	Grayson, Robert III	Harper, Luann
Barnett, Emmanuel C.	Billy, Thomas James	Buck, Robert Eugene	Copeland, Cleo	Doyle, Shelley	Fixico, Nellie Jean	Grayson, Susanna Lou	Harrell, Mattie Margie
Barnett, Evangeline J.	Billy, Winey Mae	Buckley, Arharlock T.	Copenhaver, Thomas J.	Drew, Iris Ann	Fixico, Robert Lee	Green, Janet Lee	Harris, Donald Jay
Barnett, Fredrick Wayne	Bird, Thomas Harry	Buckley, Richard	Cowan, Scipio Eddie	Drew, Pricilla Gail	Fixico, Steven	Green, Joseph	Harris, Emanuel Jerome
Barnett, Gwendolyn	Bishop, Glenda	Buckley, Sandra Lee	Crabtree, Geraldine	Drew, Veronica Barnett	Fleetwood, Carl	Greenhaw, Larry Duane	Harris, Pamela Sue
Barnett, Lewis Jr.	Blackwell, Herbert Lee	Bumgamer, Betty N.	Crabtree, Harold Lee	Duncan, Leah Desiree	Fleetwood, Fred L. Jr.	Greenleaf, Ellen	Harris, Sharon Kay
Barnett, Matthew W.	Blagg, Dewayne	Bunner, Angela Dawn	Crabtree, James Cecil Jr.	Duncan, Nancy J.	Fleetwood, Mickey D.	Greenrock, Sandra Faye	Harris, Sue
Barnett, Millicent Rae	Bledsoe, Daniel Lee	Bunner, Kenneth	Crawford, Kathryn L.	Dunham, John David	Fleetwood, Timothy W.	Greenwood, Jerry	Harris, William Michael
Barnett, Nathaniel Keith	Boen, Doyal Kirby Jr.	Bunner, Patricia Sue	Crawford, Mary Ann	Dunham, Peggy Sue	Flud, Michael Wilford	Griffith, Sharon Kay	Harrison, Katherine D.
Barnett, Palmer Lee	Boen, Jasper Ferl	Bunny, Monty Lecrue	Crawford, Ola Lavail	Dunn, Annette Louise	Flud, Richard Gale	Grimes, Linda Carol	Harrison, Lena Mae
Barnett, Ramona Sue	Boen, Lillie Mae	Bunny, Wenona Marie	Criner, Russell Dale	Dunn, Geraldine Marie	Fobb, Ruth Marie	Grimes, Sonja Renee	Harrison, Misty Dawn
Barnett, Susanna E.	Bohuslaviicky, Fay E.	Burchett, Lynetta Jean	Criner, Russell Dale II	Dunn, Mona Fay	Fogle, Barbara Elaine	Grissom, Dorothea L.	Harry, Caroline
Bailey, Regina Renee	Bolden, Mary Ann	Burgess, Edward Smith	Crockett, Inez Marie	Durbin, Hillery	Foley, Carla Denise	Grizzle, Katrina J.	Harry, Randy Gene
Barnett, Timothy Ryan	Boone, Amelia Marie	Burgess, Helen Carol	Crony, Marian Lee	Durossette, Eldee	Ford, Tara Dawn	Guernsey, Lou Ann	Harry, Simon Nelson
Battiest, Ramona Inez	Boyd, Dollie	Burgess, Mulsie Jo	Crook, Mary Ann	Duttry, Evelyn Jane	Fox, Bettie Jo	Guevara, Kim Yvonne	Harry, Virgil
Baughman, David P.		Burke, Nellie Sue	Crowels, Amos Lynn	Dyer, Cameron Ray	Fox, Bradley Jo	Guinn, Cascal	Harry, Virgil Wayne
Bear, Anthony Carmen		Burnes, Byrd Posey	Cruce Alan Lee	Edmerson, Annie Mae	Fox, Leona Mae	Guinn, Cherri Lnn	Harvey, Kathryn Lynn
		Burr, Kathi Jo	Cruce, Ardell Selvin	Edmerson, Louise M.	Fox, Marcy Lynn	Guynes, Camellia	Harvey, Lisa Renee
		Butler, Andy Ray	Crumbo, Lillian Faye	Edmundson, Eddie V.	Francis, Billie George	Haddox, Joe Bill	Harvey, Manwana V.
		Butler, Dorthea Lynn	Culley, William Brian	Edmundson, Jimmy Sr.	Francis, Elizabeth Ann	Hagie, Shelia Kay	Harvey, Martha Jane
		Byrd, Thomas A.	Cunningham, Marcella	Edwards, Anita Dawn	Francis, Jeff	Hagy, Kathy Jean	Harvey, Michelle
		Byers, Vicki Jean	Cunningham, Terri Y.	Edwards, Donna Sue	Francis, Josephine	Hale, Norma A.	Hawkins, Daniel Ray
		Caesar, Windell Louis	Curran, Cathy Lynn	Edwards, Jennie	Francis, Raymond Dion	Hale, William Norman	Hawkins, Charles W.
		Campbell, Angela Jean	Dabbs, Robert Todd	Edwards, Joe John	Francis, Robert Lee	Haley, Gladys Nadine	Hawkins, Jackie Russell
		Canard, David Paul	Damet, Charles Michael		Francis, Terry Lee	Haley, Tony Brett	Hawkins, Ronald Lee

Hawkins, Sonya Jo	Hummingbird, Virginia	Kiefer, Ben Lee	Lewis, Linda	McGirt, Christopher	Mosquito, Willie Joe	Presley, Holly Ann	Sisk, Dana Delois
Haynes, Elouise	Hudson, Anita Louise	Kelly, Christopher W.	Lewis, Michael Greg	McGirt, James	Mull, Geraldine Kay	Price, Dan Kent	Sisney, Anna
Haynes, Lewis Thomas	Hughes, Rosie Lee	Kelly, Cynthia Ann	Leybas, Waddie Albert	McGirt, Nicholas	Munds, Nancy Kaye	Price, Tammy Rene	Sizemore, Howard W.
Hays, Barbara E.	Hutton, Rosie	Kelly, Melba Ilene	Lincoln, Ramona Sue	McGirt, Wisely Jean	Musgrove, Grady H.	Primeaux, Jannina L.	Sloan, John A.
Hays Clara Jo	Hudgens, Gary	Kennedy, Gertude A.	Lindsey, Buddie Ray	McGuire, Howard Lee	Myers, Candy	Primeaux, Lance	Smith, Arlinda O.
Hays, Paulette Yvonne	Humphrey, Sherri D.	Kennedy, Michael J.	Lindsey, Buddy Jr.	McHenry, Charles Elias	Myer, Genell	Primeaux, Micky	Smith, Beatrice Marie
Hays, Senora Belle	Hyslop, Peggy Ann	Kepley, John David	Lindsey, Chofolope Joe	McHenry, Ronald	Nail, Shanda Lea	Prince, Angela Carol	Smith, David J.
Helmer, Jo Adrian	Igney, Bettie Louise	Kepley, Kevin Lane	Lindsey, Eddie	McIntosh, Charles E.	Neal, Bertha Kathlene	Prince, Josephine	Smith, Deborah Kay
Hemphill, Pauline	Ingram, Elizabeth Ellen	King, Cynthia Lynn	Litsey, William Paul	McIntosh, John	Neal, James Boyd	Proctor, Etta Luretha	Smith, Gerald Wayne
Heneha, Angelita Sue	Ingram, Roy Thomas Jr.	King, Teresa Angela	Little, Patricia Marie	McIntosh, Loucretia Jo	Neal, Jennifer Dawn	Proctor, Hattie Louise	Smith, Joe David
Heneha, Daniel Roy	Isaac, Michael Allen	Killingsworth, Raiford	Little, Shannon Marie	McIntosh, Lynda Carol	Nelson, Lydia	Pritt, Deborah Lynn	Smith, Joseph David
Heneha, Mary Jean	Isham, Frank David	Kindell, Kimberly Jane	Littlehead, Jimmy Jr.	McIntosh, Melody D.	Nelson, Rachel Renee	Qualls, Tina Louise	Smith, Michael George
Heneha, Norman Jason	Isham, Susan Marie	Kindell, Wilma Darlene	Littlehead, Matthew J.	McIntosh, Sa-Tae Seth	Nelson, William David	Quinton, Jerry Duane	Smith, Pauline
Heneha, Ralph Jr.	Jack, Angela Jean	King, Amos Wilson	Littlehead, Mitchell D.	McIntosh, Tammy Sue	Neumeyer, Amy Lee	Rabbit, Lorene	Smith, Sebrina Jean
Henry, India Aline	Jack, Elmer	King, Donald D.	Littlejohn, Raeann	McKinney, Tina Marie	Newberry, Jackie Lee	Randall, Hannah Jo	Smith, Sherry Lynn
Hensley, Charlene	Jack, Jimmie	King, Jackson	Lively, Brenda Lorraine	McLaughlin, Bobbie G.	Newton, Timothy Leo	Randall, Letha Dean	Smith, Steven Bruce
Hensley, Hattie Mae	Jack, Juanita Lyn	King, Joann	Livingston, Helen J.	McLaughlin, Debbie D.	Nichols, David D. Jr.	Reed, Maggie	Smith, Tina Maria
Hess, David Eric	Jackson, Bernard W.	King, Louise	Logan, John Baker Jr.	McNac, Jennie Lee	Nichols, Helen, Lolita	Reeder, Robert D.	Snell, Gerald Mack
Hetherington, Mary	Jackson, Della Marie	King, Robert Jr.	Loman, Lisa Marie	McNac, Kimberly Ray	Nichols, Johnnie Ann	Remis, Eugenia M.	Soweka, Robin Ray
Herod, Vickie Jean	Jackson, Edna	Kirkland, David Lynn	Long, Brenda Kay	McNatt, Charles W.	Nichols, Margaret Ann	Remis, Sheila Faye	Spain, Alvena Louise
Hicks, Nancy	Jackson, Edwin	Kirkland, Joe Allen	Long, Carol Elizabeth	McVeigh, Judy Marie	Nichols, Richard Allen	Remis, Tommy Joe	Spears, Shirley Faye
Hicks, Charley	Jackson, Ella M.	Kirkland, Steven Blaine	Long, Melissa Jean	McVeigh, Karie Dawn	Nixon, Brenda Lee	Reynolds, Andy Lee	Stafford, Jackie Dean
Hicks, Charlie Joe	Jackson, Janet Marie	Kirkland, William H.	Long, Starla Renea	Meashintubby, Mat-	Nixon, Crystal Jean	Reynolds, Charlene	Stapp, May Ellen
Hicks, Diana Denise	Jackson, Jeffrey Jon	Knight, Bobby Joe	Long, Timothy George	thew	Nixon, Freddy Lee	Reynolds, Charles Joe	Starkey, Joyce Kay
Hicks, Ella Mae	Jackson, Lora Ann	Koch, Paul Brandon	Longcrier, Jerry Wade	Medlock, Shirley Ann	Nixon, Jimmy Alton	Reynolds, Cindy Lynn	Starr, Patsy Lynn
Hicks, Francis S.	Jackson, Raymond	Koch, Stephanie Janeen	Longcrier, Matthew C.	Meeks, Jake Benjamin	Nixon, Kelly Jean	Reynolds, Herman	Starr, Reuben Leroy
Hicks, George Dutch	Jacobs, Christopher	Kouplen, Sean Paul	Lonsdale, Alicia Lynn	Meeks, Wanda Lucille	Nixon, Sherri Ann	Reynolds, Hiram S.	Stauffer, Carolyn
Hicks, Liza Mae	Jacobs, Mary Elizabeth	Kouplen, Shanna K.	Looney, Barton	Melson, William A.	Nixon, Steve Ray	Richards, Wesley Lee	Stephens, Carolyn
Hicks, Randal Darrin	Jacobs, Shelley Renea	Krank, Dennis Gray	Lovato, Jason Elliott	Merideth, Martha	Nix, Crystal Jane	Riddle, Andrea Sue	Stephens, Paul David
Hicks, Roy	Jacobs, Stephen	Krank, Lottie Ann	Lowe, Aaron Cody	Merriman, Lou Wanda	Nix, Robert Stephen	Riddle, Glenda Gayle	Stephens, Michael
Hill, Allison Irene	James, Latonna Ann	Lackey, Buddie Austin	Lowe, Lucretia Marie	Meyer, Gordon Wyatt	Noah, Josephine K.	Roberts, Donald Gene	Stephenson, Wendell I.
Hill, Barbara Jean	James, Teresa Mae	Lackey, Lillian Hazel	Lowe, Ronald James	Mickey, Mary Ann	Noon, Alisha Renee	Roberts, Judith	Stevens, Clifford Wayne
Hill, Jeanetta	Jefferson, Deborah Sue	Laman, Craig Charles	Lowery, Elsie Mae	Mickey, Michael	Northcutt, Jorgbobbie M.	Robinson, Anita Marie	Stevens, Donna Sue
Hill, Mandy	Jefferson, Michael Lee	Laman, Richard James	Lowery, Lee Allen Jr.	Mildenberger, Rebel L.	Nye, Antonio Gabriel	Robison, Charles D.	Storm, Norma Ann
Hill, Maria Jean	Jeremiah, Vicki Lamarr	Lamb, Brian Keith	Lucas, Joe Tom	Miller, David Austin Jr.	Odom, Ray Vance Sr.	Robison, Eddie Joe	Stover, Annette
Hill, Phyllis Annette	Jesse, Jimmie Jo	Lamb, Jewell Dean	Luckey, Brenda Kay	Miller, Deborah Diane	Odom, Wanda	Rooks, Michael George	Stroble, Stephen Lee
Hill, Sonja Ann	Jimboy, Edna Mae	Lamberson, Ronald Joe	Luellen, William R.	Miller, Gwendolyn Sue	O'Hern, John David	Rippy, Sheila Marie	Stroble, Vernon Lee
Hill, Sunday Siah Jr.	Jimboy, Robin Bobby	Landsberry, Alvin Gene	Lumpkin, Senora	Miller, Lawrence O. Sr.	One Bear, Lydia Ann	Round, Kendra Diane	Stubblefield, Johnny T.
Hill, Wilson	John, Henry Joe Sr.	Landsberry, Gladys D.	Mackey, Sylvia Yvonne	Miller, Raymond L. Jr.	On-The-Hill, Brian Lee	Russell, Bemon Dee	Sullins, Ralph Edward
Hillman, Geneva F.	Johnson, Allegra H.	Lane, Constance Jean	Madewell, Mary Beth	Miller, Richard Mark	Opperman, Carolyn L.	Russell, Robert Owen	Sulpher, Jemona Marie
Hillman, John Stephen	Johnson, Charlotte D.	Lanham, Russell Lee	Madlom, Nancy Lou	Miller, Robert Franklin	Osborn, Judy Carol	Rumsey, Paul Joseph	Sumka, Doris Sue
Hillmon, Mildred S.	Johnson, Christina G.	Larney, Danny Clay	Mahan, Debra Jean	Miller, Suzanne	Ostrowski, Shawna M.	Sack, Curtis Eugene	Supernaw, Charles L.
Hiner, Stanley Lewis	Johnson, Cy Oseloa Jr.	Lasater, James Edward	Manley, Hillis Eugene	Miller, Thomas Ray	Owens, Kellie Remai	Sala, Bobby Ray	Sutton, Kay Penny
Hobia, Crystal R.	Johnson, George Wiley	Laughlin, Audie James	Manley, Noah Eugene	Mitchell, Thomas	Owens, Loretta Jean	Sala, Miles Vincent	Syblon, Alice Kaye
Hobia, Wilburn Louis	Johnson, Jane Lanell	Laughlin, Christine R.	Manley, Robert Wayne	Mitchell, Wilford	Owens, Tona Ann	Sanders, Virgil	Tabbytite, Shawn
Hodge, Chester Henry	Johnson, Jimmy Miller	Laughlin, Patricia Ann	Manley, Senora Lyn	Monahwee, Anthony	Parkerson, Daniel R.	Sanders, Waylon T.	Taylor, Gilbert
Hodge, Daniel Ray	Johnson, Joseph I.	Layman, Gwenevere	Mannon, Robert Lynn	Monahwee, Michael J.	Patterson, Mason Guy	Sands, Robert Lemley	Taylor, Johnnie Lee
Hodge, Richard R.	Johnson, Karen M.	Leader, Jesse James	Marcinkevicius, Misty	Monahwee, Solomon	Patterson, Traci Lanae	Sarty Ned, Dee Jr.	Taylor, Lanesia Lavette
Holata, Jamie Ernestine	Johnson, Lee Otis	Leaf, Stephanie	Marshall, Barbara Ann	Monahwee, Yommie L.	Patterson, Trellas Kaye	Satawake, Donna Faye	Taylor, Mark Allen
Holdridge, Suzanne D.	Johnson, Lee Otis Jr.	Ledbetter, Shellie Dee	Marshall, Bonita	Monday, Lewis Ray	Payne, Michael Wayne	Sawyer, Emma Jean	Tebe, Yamer
Holler, Regina Leigh	Johnson, Loda Joy	Ledger, Sharon Jean	Marshall, Famous Sr.	Mondragon, Destiny E.	Payne, Michele Leigh	Scott, Dollie Mae	Tecumseh, Geronimo L.
Holman, Maggie W.	Johnson, Marvin Ray	Ledger, Tina Michelle	Marshall, Michael	Montgomery, Angelia	Payne, Pamela Elaine	Scott, George Alexander	Teehee, Brenda Joe
Holmes, Harvey	Johnson, Michael A. Sr.	Lee, Audra Samantha	Marshall, Polly Francis	Montgomery, Marcus	Pem, Raylene	Scott, Jacqueline Jae	Thetford, Cytha Lou
Holmes, Hazel Viola	Johnson, Sarah	Lee, Billy Gene	Marshall, Richard Allen	Montgomery, Woodrow	Perryman, Olivia Jean	Scott, Jerry Kevin	Thomas, Brandon Y.
Holmes, Raymond	Johnson, Shirley Ann	Lee, Ethel Ernestine	Marshall, Stoney	Montoya, Lilly C.	Peters, Sandra Ann	Scott, Lona Mae	Thomas, Suzanne D.
Holt, Cherry Mable	Johnson, Solomon Lee	Lee, Janice Fay	Martin, Karen Denise	Mooney, Darrell Duane	Pharaoh, Danie Lynn	Scott, Louise	Thomas, Thomas Lee
Holt, Robert Lynn	Johnson, Van Lee	Lee, Joyce Ann	Martin, Melissa Oneta	Moore, Lawrence R.	Phelan, Fredrick W.	Scott, Lynn Eliot	Thomason, Boyd Lee
Holuby, Althea Sue	Johnston, Amy Dawn	Lee, Phyllis Ann	Mathews, Thomas H.	Moore, Levi Solomon	Phillips, Debra Denise	Scott, Wallace King	Thompson, Edna Kate
Hooper, Anita Jean	Jones, Bobby Ray	Lee, Sherdel	Mayes, Jerry Wayne	Morgan, Eddie	Phillips, Deborah	Scruggs, Barbara Sue	Thompson, Geraldine
Hopkins, Tommie L.	Jones, Brian Daniel	Lee, William Dean	Mayes, Thomas	Morgan, Elmo Jr.	Phillips, Richard Brosen	Sealy, Clifford C. Jr.	Thompson, Paulette
Hopkins, Vickie Louise	Jones, Ed Alvin	Lee, William Rocky	Mayes, Wanda Sue	Morgan, Emanuel	Pigeon, Billy Ray	Seber, Delores Ann	Thompson, Richard T.
Horn, Mollie Faye	Jones, Fred	Lee, Winey	McAtee, David Lynn	Morgan, James	Pigeon, Priscilla Lynn	Seber, Sonya Gail	Thompson, Shirley
Horse, Sophia Denise	Jones, Harriett	Leek, Michelle Lynn	McCaslin, Janie Birdie	Morgan, James Glenn	Pigeon, Tuffie Silas	Sakayouma, Steven K.	Thompson, Stephen A.
Horton, Lewis Van	Jones, Jackie Sue	Leftwich, Kimberly R.	McChristian, Mary Sue	Morgan, Patricia Ann	Pike, Pamela Rebecca	Sharp, Andrew Jason	Tibbs, Nancy Iwonna
Houx, Amy Shonta	Jones, Jennifer Lynn	Leftwich, Link Tim	McChristian, Michael	Morgan, Pauline	Pinion, Kevin Lee	Shatswell, Donna Lee	Tice, Rosette Mane
Houx, Connie Sue	Jones, Patsy Ruth	Lanmons, Jeri Lynn	McCutcheon, Jeffery S.	Morgan, Raymond Lee	Pittman, Chester Lee Jr.	Shinpooh, Tricia M.	Tiger, Christine M.
Howell, Barry Wade	Jones, Ruth Mae	Lenard, Angela M.	McClish, John Paul II	Morgan, Richard Dale	Pittman, Elmer Haskell	Shipley, Elizabeth Kaye	Tiger, George Palmer
Howell, Donald Ray	Jones, Samuel Leroy	Lenard, Linda Darlene	McCombs, Perry	Morgan, Richard	Pittman, Felicia Medina	Shipley, Marjorie Jean	Tiger, Lillian
Howell, Phillip D.	Jones, Timothy Adam	Lenard, Nicholas Don	McConnell, Robert D.	Morgan, Russell M.	Pittman, Walter L.	Shoemake, Betty Alene	Tiger, Michael Andrew
Howerton, Michelle R.	Josie, Rodney	Lewis, Clem H.	McCoy, Clarence R.	Morgan, Todd Howitt	Posey, Bill	Showman, Shirley Ann	Tiger, Noah
Huddart, Betty Beatrice	Joyner, Delores Jean	Lewis, Evelyn Rachael	McCutchen, Becki J.	Morris, Rachel Suzanne	Posey, Eloise Kay	Shropshire, Tamara	Tiger, Terry Lynn
Huddleston, Billy W.	July, Florence Marie	Lewis, Eric Todd	McCutchen, Nellie Mae	Morrow, Floyd A. Jr.	Postoak, Johnny Gene	Simmons, Pamela Gay	Tilley, Emmitt Gene
Huffman, Kevin Brent	Kaler, Donna Darlene	Lewis, Frances Kay	McGeeley, Alyssa Jo	Morrow, William L.	Powell, Cameron	Simmons, Tootie	Tilley, Tracy Alvin
Huffman, Shauna Ruth	Kamp, Frank Edward	Lewis, Garfield Jackson	McGeeley, Doris	Morton, Howard Lee Jr.	Powell, Karen June	Simpson, Addie	Tilley, Thomas Eugene
Hurst, Donna Kaye	Keele, Earl Clayton Jr.	Lewis, Gerald Gene	McGeely, Louis	Morton, Lee Elliott	Powell, Tonia	Simpson, Doris	Tilley, Zelva Lee
Hull, Myrl	Keele, Janet Leigh	Lewis, Jerry	McGirt, Brian Ray		Powers, Muriel Marie	Simpson, Richard	Timothy, Gene Lee

Spotlight

"Since the age of eleven, I have been involved with dancing, and I have always loved it," says Hill proudly.

Creek Girl Does the Irish Jig

by Gerald Wofford

It's not unusual to go to Native American events where, let's be honest, not all the participants are really Native Americans. A sad but realistic circumstance may occur where Native American Art is displayed, or perhaps a cultural American Indian dance is performed and the justifiable credentials are just not there. Hollywood has also been one of the major culprits in its cinematic history, often relying on other nationalities to portray an indigenous North American role.

So what if a female Native American partakes in an event that totally belongs to another culture and is really good at it. So good in fact, that she competes for a World Championship.

Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Sarah Hill has done just that. Recently, Hill qualified for the World Championships of Irish Dancing held in Dublin, Ireland this month. The official title of the qualifying event was the Southern Region OIREACHTAS, (pronounced OR-AUK-TUS) which is Irish for competition. The event was held in Norfolk, Virginia in December of last year.

Even though Irish dancing is not what you would call traditional Muscogee, it is something the 21 year old has always wanted to try. "Since the age of eleven, I have been involved with dancing, and I have always loved it," says Hill proudly.

Hill has studied other forms of dancing, such as jazz, tap and modern ballet. But it was by chance that she became introduced to Irish dancing. "When I was 16, I was at the library and I saw this flyer that said Summer Irish Dancing Lessons and I didn't know what Irish Dancing was," admits Hill. "So the classes weren't very far away, so I decided to go. And I have been going ever since. I never gave up."

And like many traditional Native American dances, Irish Dancing requires proper teaching to be passed down from the proper teachers, otherwise it is not certified as legitimate. Although Hill had learned the basics of Irish Dancing and could dance in parades, and other public exhibitions, she was not allowed to compete unless trained by a certified Irish dance instructor. Hill wanted to go further, she liked the style and wanted to prove herself as a good Irish dancer. But there was not yet a certified Irish Dancer in the area or region, but then Hill got the luck of the Irish. "About two years ago, a certified Irish Dance Teacher by the name of Maureen McTegor Hall, who had 8 schools in the United States, decided to add Oklahoma as an area to teach. I immediately got in touch with her," explains Hill.

Hill says the common perception about Irish Dancing is that it is often thought of as the popular River Dancing. But the resident from Stroud says their is a huge difference. "You know how Ballet has Broadway shows like the Nut-

cracker and Swan Lake. That's what river dancing is to Irish dancing. It's a show, it is Irish Dancing. But it is not the same as a competition." Hill explains that the steps that are required at competitions and are technically much harder to do. "It's harder to get a lot of people doing a lot of different steps as opposed to River Dancing where a lot of people are doing the exact same steps."

Hill also explains the required steps in a competition, such as the *Jig* and the *Hornpipe*. "In the competition I qualified for in Norfolk, Virginia, I had to compete in a reel and a hornpipe. A reel is a soft-shoe dance and a hornpipe is a

hard-shoe dance. That's how it goes in competition, one soft-shoe, one hard-shoe. If you get a recall, which means your score was high enough for you to go further in the competition, you would do a set-dance, which is a hard-shoe dance. That's how it is at qualifying tournaments, such as the regional competitions, but at other regular competitions you can compete in as many dances as you want."

Hill can boast that she is the only Native American woman involved with Irish Dancing on a World Championship level. She says that she has seen only one African American Woman involved with Irish Dancing, but has never seen other Nationalities involved, such as Asians or Hispanics.

The official Irish name of the Championships is *Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne*, which is pronounced Or-uk-tus Reen-ka Na Kreen-a. It means *Competition Dance of the Best*.

Hill left for Ireland on Wednesday, April 7. Of course, Hill is excited to be visiting a foreign land and will certainly take advantage of it. "After the competition, I am going to spend some time touring because its just so awesome," said Hill excitedly. "I'll be able to see famous people I've only seen in videos and pictures. After that my family is just going to explore the whole country. We are renting two cars and just see everything we can in one week."

Hill's mother and father are Brenda O'Neil and Riley Hill. Riley will be staying home, but Hill's mother, along with her grandparents, Ron and Shirley Murphen, sister Rebecca, uncle Jim Richards, and boyfriend Steven Baker, will be making the trip.

Hill plans to one day become a certified teacher in Irish Dancing and creating her own dance studio. She says that the Irish community has taken quite well to seeing a Muscogee (Creek) girl doing a traditional Irish dance. "They Irish community are very accepting, they love it, they really do," says Hill. "They like seeing a new face with a different perspective on Irish Dancing. Everyone involved with Irish Dancing is all about spreading Irish Dancing. Its for the love of dancing and for just one more person, just one culture to add to that is just wonderful."



Sarah Hill displays the proper stance in her solo dress in order to perform the *Rince* (REENKA) of Irish Dancing photo by Gerald Wofford

Housing Authority offers various housing programs

OKMULGEE — The Housing Authority of the Creek Nation (HACN) has various programs designed to help eligible Muscogee (Creek) Citizens obtain safe, efficient, and affordable living conditions.

As one of the largest Indian housing authorities in the nation, HACN maintains over 1100 home ownership units and approximately 300 rental units. HACN provides services to Muscogee (Creek) people and realize that the housing need is significant. HACN continues to try to meet the ever growing need by providing housing opportunities through Home Ownership, Rental, and Modernization Programs. One of HACN's main goals is to inform Creek citizens about the programs offered and to show results of HACN's ongoing progress.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

HOME OWNERSHIP

The Lease with Option to Purchase Program offers Native American families affordable housing with an opportunity for home ownership.

When participating in the Lease with Option to Purchase Program, the homebuyer enters into a lease agreement with HACN and agrees to meet all financial and maintenance obligations as stated in the lease. Upon meeting all the financial obligations required by the Lease With Option to Purchase agreement, the home becomes sole property of the homebuyer.



LOW RENT

The Rental Housing Program provides low cost rental housing in the cities of Okmulgee, Okemah, Checotah, and Eufaula. Overall, HACN has a total of over 300 living units with each rental site having approximately 75 units (duplexes). The Rental program is presently renovating over 25 units at Okmulgee and plan approximately 20 more renovations at the other rental site locations in the near future.



MODERNIZATION

The Modernization of Privately Owned Homes Program is designed to provide safe, sanitary housing to eligible tribal citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation through housing rehabilitation.



Specific items covered under this program are those that affect health and safety, handicap accessibility, and basic structural soundness. General maintenance or cosmetic repairs are not included under the program.

To participate in the maintenance program, applicants must show proof of ownership and documentation of occupancy for three years prior to date of application.

All eligible houses must be within the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know if I am eligible for any services? Although each program has its own specific requirements here are some of the basic eligibility requirements.

- Qualify as a family.
- Have an annual family income that meets the income requirements as defined in the policy.
- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Provide all requested information, Tribal membership card, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each working family member.
- Agree in writing to participate and fully cooperate in the housing authority's counseling and training for the home ownership programs.
- Sign all required forms including the consent for disclosure of information.

How do I apply for services?

Each applicant wishing to participate in any HACN program must first submit a signed and dated written application to the HACN Housing Management Department for processing according to specific program eligibility requirements.

Do I have to live within the Creek Nation boundaries to be eligible for services?

All HACN program services are administered within the Creek Nation boundaries.

How long is the waiting period for the Home Ownership Program?

Generally 3 to 5 years. That period may be affected by your choice of location for housing.

Do I have to already own land to be eligible for a new home?

New construction houses are built on either land acquired by HACN or on land donated by the client.

Does HACN provide any home repair services?

HACN provides housing rehabilitation through the Maintenance of Privately Owned Homes Program. Items included are: items affecting health and safety, handicap accessibility, energy efficiency, and basic structural soundness.

How can I get more information about these programs?

For more information, contact: Housing Authority of the Creek Nation; P.O. Box 297; Okmulgee, OK 74447 or (918) 756-8504 or 1-800-259-5050.

Housing Authority of the Creek Nation 2004 Program Activity Report						
HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM				Fiscal Year starting Oct 03		
	FEB 04	JAN 04	DEC 03	NOV 03	OCT 03	YTD
APPLICATIONS						
RECEIVED	15	10	14	5	13	42
APPROVED	8	6	1	3	9	22
HOUSED	—	5	—	15	1	21
Source: HACN Monthly Reports						
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT				Fiscal Year starting Oct 03		
	FEB 04	JAN 04	DEC 03	NOV 03	OCT 03	YTD
ACQUISITION PROGRAM						
HOUSES PURCHASED	5	1	—	3	1	10
HOUSES APPROVED FOR PURCHASE	6	6	—	—	—	12
NEW CONSTRUCTION						
UNITS COMPLETED	—	—	9	—	—	9
SITES COMPLETED/PURCHASED	10	—	—	—	—	10
TURKEY PROJECT UNITS	70 Pending					
Source: HACN Monthly Reports						
NAHASDA HOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM				Fiscal Year starting Oct 03		
	FEB 04	JAN 04	DEC 03	NOV 03	OCT 03	YTD
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES						
APPLICATIONS REC'D (Private House)	7	6	8	3	5	29
WORK ORDERS RECEIVED	25	41	30	34	34	164
Total Repairs	4	6	4	7	13	34
Minor Repairs	27	35	34	27	63	186
SCOPE OF WORK COMPLETED	24	34	26	29	62	175
FINAL INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	58	41	33	40	30	202
FORCE ACCOUNT (Minor Repairs)	Note: Jobs received may contain multiple tasks					
JOBS RECEIVED	69	116	79	80	71	415
JOBS COMPLETED	53	96	67	65	57	338
PLUMBING	48	125	58	57	81	369
CONSTRUCTION	19	22	21	22	19	103
Source: HACN Monthly Reports						
LOW RENT PROGRAM				Units occupied per site during February 2004		
	Chetlique	Chicklain	Estabak	Olemaish	TOTAL	
UNITS OCCUPIED PER SITE	60	37	21	33	151	
UNITS UNDER REHAB	40	22	10	20	92	
UNITS COMPLETED	16	9	—	—	25	
Source: HACN Monthly Reports						

Creek Nation Festival 2004 schedule of events, entry fee and application deadlines

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Festival will be held June 18 through 20 at the Claude Cox Omniplex.

All entry fees should be paid by cashier's check or money order unless otherwise stated.

Junior Olympics

The junior Olympics will begin at 7:30 a.m., June 20 at the Harmon stadium.

The deadline for registration is May 21. Volunteers are needed for this event.

For more information contact Anthony Harjo or April Welsh at 732-7869.

All Indian Rodeo

The Rodeo will be held June 18 and 19 starting at 8:00 nightly. Entry Fees are \$60 for all events, \$120 for team roping, and \$20 for Junior events.

Prizes will be \$500 for senior events, added nightly, \$1,000 for team roping, added nightly, and \$100 for jr. events, added nightly.

Pageantry

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM Program is coordinating the Muscogee Nation Scholarship pageant. Senior Misses and Little Miss Mvskoke pageant events will be held at 10 a.m., June 5 in the Okmulgee High School Auditorium. Miss Mvskoke and junior miss Mvskoke pageant events will be held at 7 p.m., June 3 in the mound.

The age groups for all categories are miss Mvskoke, ages 17 to 22 and must be a high school graduate; junior miss, ages 14 to 17; senior misses, ages 55 years and older, little miss division I, ages four to six; division II, ages seven to nine; division III, ages 10 to 13.

Participants must be at least 1/4 Muscogee (Creek).

Prizes include: miss Mvskoke — \$2,500, crown, and trophy; runner-up receives \$500 and a plaque; junior miss — \$500, crown, and trophy; runner-up will receive \$125 and plaque; senior misses — \$500, trophy, and crown; runner-up will receive \$125 and plaque; little miss — all three divisions receive \$100, trophy, and crown; each division runner-up will receive \$25 and plaque.

The deadline date for applications is May 3 by 5 p.m. For more information, contact Virginia Thomas at (918) 732-7839 or 1-800-482-1979.

There will be a reception after all new Princesses have been elected in the Mound June 17 so that the public may meet them.

Festival Food and Arts and Crafts Vendors

Omniplex booth space rental fees for vendors are: \$125 for food and arts and crafts are \$40 without electric and \$60 with electric.

Space location is secured through payment of rental fees and will be granted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Make entry fee payable to "Creek Nation Festival committee."

For more information contact: Melinda Taylor at 732-7727.

Gospel singing

The Gospel singing will be located at the OSU Extension Building, at 7 p.m. at the Okmulgee County Fair Grounds.

Approximately 15 minutes, enough time for three songs, will be allotted to each group or soloist. Key board, cd/tape player, and drums will be provided. Five microphones will also be available. Please provide your own guitar.

Deadline for all singers to register is June 4, 2004. You will be notified of when you perform. Food will be served after 9:00 p.m. and concession will be available.

For more information please contact Thompson Gouge at 732-7711.

Stomp Dance

Stomp dance will be held Thursday in front of the stage area at the Omniplex. A fellowship dinner will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with the stomp dance to follow.

For more information please contact David Proctor at 756-8504.

Archery

For more information please contact Johnny Hicks at 732-7788.

Volley Ball

The Volley Ball Tournament is Saturday, June 19. It starts at 8 a.m. and runs until it is finished.

For more information please contact Jenna Gouge at 732-7897.

Men & Women's Fast Pitch

Men's and Women's fastpitch will begin on June 18. The nonrefundable entry fee is \$175.00 in the form of a cashier's check or money order payable to the Creek Nation Festival. Deadline for entries is June 4, 2004. The tournament is limited to 24 Men and 16 Women's teams. All participants must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe (enrollment proof of each team member required).

For more information contact Ruby Booker at atbooker@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or 1-800-482-1979, ext. 7927.

Co-Ed Slow Pitch

Co-Ed slow pitch softball tournament will be starting Friday night. The nonrefundable entry fee is \$165. Awards will be given to first through fourth place teams and individual awards also. Balls will be provided.

For more information contact Victor Bear at 732-7679

Elderly Activities

Elderly activities will be held June 19th from 9 until noon at the Fair Grounds building. They will include horse shoes, dominoes, archery, and 10 games of Bingo. Lunch will be provided. Also there will be an Elder's county fair, with competitions in clothing, crafts, baked goods, art, canned goods, traditional foods, and quilts. For more information please contact Pearl Thomas at 732-7876

Afterwards there will be a ceremony starting at 2 p.m. and running until 4 p.m. to honor our last original allottee, Ms. Martha Berryhill.

For more information on this please contact Donna Martin, at 732-7973.

Golf Tournament

A Golf tournament will be held on June 18 through 20 at Cobblestone Creek in Muscogee.

A scramble will begin on June 18 with registration at noon and tournament start time will be 1 p.m. Saturday players are responsible for scheduling tee times. On Sunday there will be a 8 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information or to register please contact Bret Hayes at 756-3334 ext 286.

Concerts

The concerts are scheduled to begin on Friday, June 18 at 6:00 with the following performers: Bad Water, Don White, Brian Parton, and Nashville Rebels. The headliner will be announced at a later date.

Saturday's performers will be: Medicine Pony, Red Rhythm Band, Uptown Horns, Scott Ellison, Jimmy "Junior" Markham, and Chris Zalez. Chief Ellis is scheduled to speak at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ruth Bible at (918) 732-7640.

Horseshoe Tournament

A horseshoe tournament will be held on June 19 with registration beginning at 8 a.m. Entry fee will be \$12 per person, per event.

Bring your own horseshoes. No modified shoes will be allowed. Select your own partner, double elimination, best 2 out of 3 to 21 points (players keep score); scoring: ringers — 3; close or leaners — 1; women & men's seniors (62 & older) have the option to throw 30' or 40' — all others throw 40 feet.

Awards: 1st place 40% of intake; 2nd place 20% of intake; and 3rd place will be 15% of intake. For more information contact Larry Soweka at (918) 758-1018 ext 11.

5K Run or Walk

The 5K run/walk will be on June 19 at the Muscogee Nation Tribal Complex. Entry fee through June 18 is \$15 or \$20 on race day (includes t-shirt) or \$10 without t-shirt.

Limited number of shirts available. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race begins at 8:00 a.m. Water will be provided. For more information contact Lila Garrett at 732-7862 or 732-7869.

Celebration of Traditional Mvskoke Arts

OKMULGEE — For the first time the Creek Council House is working with the Creek Nation Festival to celebrate the traditional Mvskoke arts. On June 19 adults can enjoy a juried traditional art competition, master artist show and sale, and Dawes Commission Cards Symposium while children can be a rabbit or turtle in an interactive storytelling workshop, learn Pow Wow and Stomp dances, play a game of stickball, or make a clay pot, cane basket, or beaded bracelet to take home. For more information contact the museum at 756-2324.

Sixth Annual American Indian Elders Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Sixth Annual Indian Elders Conference, "Renewing the Spirit," will be held June 1 through 3 at the Biltmore Hotel.

The conference will celebrate and honor the strong spirit of our Elders as they willingly explore new pathways for better health and continuously set positive examples for generations to follow. Outstanding elders who represent various tribes throughout Oklahoma will be recognized and honored for their positive accomplishments and contributions. Conference topics include: health and wellness, cancer, diabetes, healthy cooking with commodities, arthritis, exercise and fitness alternatives. The registration fee is \$35 and includes admission to the 2004 Outstanding Elders Ceremony and dinner.

Registration brochures are available by mail or you can visit our website at www.ou.edu/aii and download forms.

For more information on conference registration, scholarships, exhibit/vendor space, conference support and Outstanding Elder Nomination Forms, please contact: Sue Fish at sfish@ou.edu; Ramona Moore at rwahpepah@ou.edu; University of Oklahoma at (800) 522-0772, ext. 4127; or K. Denise Smith at karole.smith@mail.ihs.gov or (888) 275-4886 ext. 348.

All Nations Indian Bowling Tournament

OKLAHOMA CITY — There will be a Native American Bowling Tournament June 5 and 6 at Holiday Lanes in Oklahoma City.

The entry fee for the tournament is \$20 and each bowler must have a current ABC/WIBC card or pay a \$5.00 participation fee. Each participant is required to bowl in both the singles and doubles events.

For more information contact: Colleen Lamey at (405) 720-0811; Alma Johnson at (405) 275-5466; Gloria Factor at (405) 677-6356; or Jim Edwards at (918) 742-1549.

Church celebrates 100th anniversary

ARBEKA — The members of the Arbeka Indian Baptist Church are celebrating the church's 100 Year anniversary on May 22.

Services will start at approximately 10:00 a.m. A message will be brought by Rev. Homer Lee Emarthle. The Church history will be read with singing to follow. Lunch will be served with a full day of fellowship planned.

Everyone is invited to come and take part in this celebration.

National Indian Taco Championships

PAWHUSKA — The Pawhuska Heritage Day will be held May 15 and as its signature contest is a National Indian Taco Champion cook-off which is expected to draw contestants from the whole United States.

Entry fee is \$10 or for \$5 a person can sign up to be one of the judges of the competition. In addition to the Indian taco contestants, there will be several arts and crafts vendors.

Admission to the event is free. The contest will be held at Pawhuska Culture Park at the intersection of U. S. Highway 60 and Lynn Avenue.

Sequoyah High School to hold annual alumni reunion

SEQUOYAH — Sequoyah High School is hosting their 58th Annual Alumni Reunion April 30 through May 2.

Friday begins with a silent auction from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in the Cherokee Nation Ballroom. Items to be auctioned may include: silver jewelry, blankets, quilts, pillows, purses, totebags, dolls, baskets, pottery, beaded items, t-shirts, art work, frames, ribbon shirts, tear dresses, and other items. The public is invited and admission is free.

Saturday's events will begin with food, and stories of fond memories. Sunday Morning Services will be held as closure for the reunion. For more information contact Wanda Jones at (918) 458-1858.

Head Start accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 school year.

Along with your application, you will need to bring verification of income, social security card, birth certificate, citizenship or CDIB card, and an immunization card.

Applications can be picked up at the head starts in: Checotah, Eufaula, Okmulgee, Tulsa, Wilson, Yeager, and Yardeka.

Red Cloud Indian Art Show

PINE RIDGE, SD — The Red Cloud Indian Art Show is going on June 6 through August 14. Any tribally enrolled individuals can enter. All pieces entered must be for sale and all the works with the exception of three dimensional pieces should be framed without glass.

Entrants must inform the number and type of pieces you intend to enter by May 1 by card or letter to: Red Cloud Entry Show; The Heritage Center, 100 Mississippi Drive; Pine Ridge, South Dakota, 57770. Entry forms can be requested at this address as well.

Celebration of traditional Mvskoke arts

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House Museum is working with the Creek Nation Festival to celebrate the traditional Mvskoke arts.

On June 19 adults can enjoy a juried traditional art competition, master artist show and sale, and Dawes Commission Cards Symposium while children can be a rabbit or turtle in an interactive storytelling workshop, learn Pow Wow and Stomp dances, play a game of stickball, or make a clay pot, cane basket, or beaded bracelet to take home.

For further information contact the museum at 756-2324.

Summer language class

OKMULGEE — OSU-Okmulgee and the Mvskoke Language Institute are offering a 5 credit hour class on the Mvskoke Language this summer.

The class introduction to the Mvskoke language and culture is part of the 10 hour language requirements of the OSU System. Classes begin May 6. This is the first time this class has been offered as a summer session. The class must have 10 to 12 students to make. There is the possibility of distance learning for this class as well.

For more information call Dr. Avant at OSU Okmulgee

office of administration at 1-800-722-4471.

Bacone College Alumni Reunion

MUSKOGEE — Bacone College Alumni Reunion will be held on the Bacone Campus June 18 through 20. This year all classes ending in four will be honored. Activities are being planned for the three-day weekend. All events will be in the Bacone Chapel.

Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard met March 13 and discussed past events and funerals. Jeremy Lewis from Eufaula, who is a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Army, is a new member of the Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard plans to attend Bacone College Commencement on May 8. Also, at Chief Ellis's request, the Honor Guard plans to attend the grand opening of the Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

Communications to offer senior portrait package

OKMULGEE — The Communications Department is offering a high school senior portrait and announcement package to tribal citizens beginning the first of May.

The package will include the following: 2 - 8 x 10; 2 - 5 x 7's; 8 - 3 x 5's; 27 wallets; and 1 - eight proof picturefolio. Prints can either be in full color or black and white. Also, prints can be personalized with name, year, and/or school initials. Prices will range from \$30 to \$75 based on income guidelines. Digital announcements will also be available.

Photo sessions must be set up a week in advance. Photos will be taken at the main tribal complex, Indian community centers or Woodward Park in Tulsa.

For more information contact Lucas Taylor, Ruth Bible or Denise Jacobs at (918) 723-7637.

Newspaper seeks submissions for senior high and college graduates

OKMULGEE — The staff of the *Muscogee Nation News* is seeking submissions from Muscogee senior high and college graduates for its annual graduates section.

The section will run in the June issue of the *MNN*. To have a graduation announcement published in this annual section include the following: the roll number of the graduate (if the roll number is not known, include the Social Security number or date of birth and the graduate's full name); a focused, color or black and white photograph with a good contrast (photos are optional); and include information such as: school name; city and state; clan; tribal town; parents; grandparents; awards; activities; and plans and adhere to a word limit around 115.

The deadline for submission is May 28. Mail submission to: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or e-mail to: jtaryole@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Electronically mailed submissions must be saved as a Word Perfect or Microsoft Word document. Digital photos must be sent with the following specifications: JPEG or TIFF format; a setting of no less than 300 DPI; and the images must be 1.5 inches wide and 2 inches in height.

For more information please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7637 or 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7637.

January District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Security Finance vs. Justina McNac
- MCN Consumer Loans v. Beverly Peace
- Star Loans v. Chris Mack
- Star Loans v. Courtney Josie
- Royal Finance v. Jayme Spaniard
- Robin Molle & Sharon Chalakee v. The Gaming Operations Authority Board
- Royal Finance v. Sabrina Martin
- Shanh-Dae Bevan v. Corey Carr
- MCN v. Debbie Montgomery

Protective Orders:

- Sabrina Martin v. Michael Martin Wilson v. Manuel Perez

Divorce:

- Vera Harjo v. Morris Harjo
- Regina Buckley v. Ryan Buckley
- Sabrina Martin v. Michael Martin
- Kermitta Harris-Tottress v. Jonathan Tottress

Criminal-felony:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. William Noon
— count 1: Possession of illegal drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. Don Fish
— count 1: public intoxication
— count 2: possession of marijuana

Criminal-Misdemeanor:

- MCN v. Elliot Birdcreek
— count 1: public intoxication
- MCN v. Garland Rainwater
— count 1: public intoxication
- MCN v. Helen Smith
— count 1: public intoxication
— count 2: trespassing

Traffic:

- MCN v. Bryan Anderson
— count 1: driving without required registration
- MCN v. Saperen Black
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Gary Thompson
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Ricky Thompson
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Christina Thompson
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Shonda Snodgrass
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Shonda Snodgrass
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Shonda Snodgrass
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Christopher Hobson
— count 1: disorderly conduct

February District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Security Finance v. Courtney Josie

Protective Orders:

- Timissah Lindsey v. Brandy Waterdown
- Ryan Rutledge v. Crystal Compton

- Sandra Harley v. Jay D Harley

Criminal-felony:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Misty Marcinkevicius
— count 1: cheating by credit
— count 2: cheating by credit

Criminal-Misdemeanor:

- MCN v. Dinico Brown
— count 1: Possession of illegal drugs

Traffic:

- MCN v. Gwendolyn Mitchell
— count 1: no insurance
- MCN v. Gwendolyn Mitchell
— count 1: out of date tag
- MCN v. Daniel Muriel
— count 1: possession of alcohol
- MCN v. Diarris Dillion
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Robert Mackey
— count 1: possession of alcohol
- MCN v. Dinico Brown
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Emmett Mossa
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Robert Noe
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. David Harrington
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Danny Lamb
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Lonnie Francis
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Jon Wickson
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Chrisopher Smith
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Walter Washington
— count 1: disorderly conduct

March District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- MCN v. Tammy Checotah
- Alice Tulsa — Name Change
- Owen Hicks — Name Change
- Branon Littlehead v. Minnie Lindsey
- Keith Lyons v. MCN Bingo Hall & Casino
- Security Finance v. Patricia Lowe

Protective Orders:

- Christina Berryhill v. Lindell Berryhill Jr.
- Clara Ballard v. Michael Matzinger
- Marjorie Chalakee v. Carrissa Wolfe
- Marjorie Chalakee v. Aaron Burgess
- Marjorie Chalakee v. YoLina Mora-Russell
- Marjorie Chalakee v. Darin William
- Minnie Wilson v. Manuel Perez
- Margie Childers v. Joe Childers
- Sandra Knight v. Starling Knight
- Loretta Bible v. Justin Bible
- Tamera Roberts v. George Roberts
- Loretta Jumper v. Cordell Jumper Sr.
- Renee Buck & LaToya v. Eugene Tyler

Divorce:

- Starling Knight v. Sandra Knight
- Alex Meely v. Arnold Meely
- Vanessa Battiest Hopkins Colon v. Michael Hopkins Colon

Criminal-felony:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Ricky Williams
— count 1: aggravated battery
— count 2: possession of drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. Danny Smith
— count 1: possession of Marijuana
— count 2: possession of drug paraphernalia
- MCN v. Michael Miller
— count 1: possession of illegal drugs
— count 2: possession of paraphernalia

Criminal-Misdemeanor:

- MCN v. Garland Rainwater
— count 1: public intoxication

Traffic:

- MCN v. David Williams
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Joseph Nichols
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Moses Onwu
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Christa Windham
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Hollie Brown
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Melissa Holt
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Wade Russell
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Steven Coleman
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Anthony Payne
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Anthony Payne
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Christopher Smith
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Sultan Almutairi
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Guilleono Lopez
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Kevin Roderick
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Kevin Roderick
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Kevin Roderick
— count 1: disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Jimmy Godfrey
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Sarah Brown
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Matthew Baker
— count 1: driving with out required registration
- MCN v. Gayle Barnes
— count 1: expired tag
- MCN v. Janette Weller
— count 1: disorderly conduct

Legal Notices

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 4, April 2004

Case No. CRF 2003-14

In the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District Court: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff,
vs. Wynema J. Roberts, Defendant

Judgment and Sentence on Plea of Guilty

Now on this 15th day of March, 2004, the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, present in open court and represented by Michael Yeksavich and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Shannon L. Prescott, Assistant Prosecutor.

The defendant having been legally charged by Information filed in this case with a criminal offense and having been duly arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNTS 1-25: Cheating by Check (NCA 99-04 § 4-707)** as charged in said Information.

The Court prior to accepting said plea informed the defendant of her Constitutional rights, including her right to legal counsel and trial by jury; her right to be confronted by her accusers and her right to the privilege against compulsory self-incrimination; and in response to questioning by the Court, the defendant said that she understood her Constitutional rights and she waived each of them, and persisted in her plea of guilty. The Court further informed the defendant of the minimum and maximum penalty provided by law for the aforesaid offense, and the effect of such plea; and after being further interrogated by the Court the defendant stated that she is guilty of said crime and that her plea of guilty is voluntary and is made by her without inducement or coercion.

The Court thereupon accepted the defendant's plea of guilty to the aforesaid crimes; and the defendant having been asked by the Court whether she had any legal cause to show why judgment and sentence should not now be pronounced against her, and stating no such sufficient cause, and none appearing to the Court;

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, is guilty of the crimes of **COUNTS 1-25: Cheating by Check.**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE COURT that the defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, be committed to the custody of the Chief of the Lighthorse Police for a term of One (1) year Sentence on each of the Twenty Five Counts, with all but Thirty (30) days suspended per count, more specifically set forth below: COUNT 1: To run concurrent with CRF-03-25; COUNT 2 & 3: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Count 1; COUNT 4 & 5: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 2 and 3; COUNT 6 & 7: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 4 & 5; COUNT 8 & 9: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 6 and 7; COUNT 10 & 11: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 8 and 9; COUNT 12 & 13: To run

concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 10 and 11; COUNT 14 & 15: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 12 and 13; COUNT 16 & 17: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 14 and 15; COUNT 18 & 19: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 16 and 17; COUNT 20 & 21: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 18 & 19; COUNT 22 & 23: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 20 & 21; COUNT 24 & 25: To run concurrent with each other, but consecutive to Counts 22 & 23; for a Total of Thirteen (13) One Year consecutive sentences.

The first 30 days confinement will run flat time and shall begin March 22, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. Each year that a consecutive sentence begins the defendant is to serve Thirty (30) days in confinement unless modified at each annual review that will be scheduled by the Court. Total jail time ordered unless modified is 390 days.

The remainder of the one year sentence shall remain suspended provided that Defendant timely pay all fines, costs and restitution associated herewith and comply with the Rules and Conditions of Probation signed by the Defendant and the Court, filed in this case and incorporated herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, is to pay fines and costs per the attached Exhibit A.

The Court further advised the defendant of her right to appeal to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, and of the necessary steps to be taken by her to perfect such appeal.

/s/ Honorable Patrick E. Moore, District Court Judge

Attest:
Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk

/s/ Stephanie Thomas, Deputy Court clerk/Notary Public
/s/ Shannon Prescott, Assistant Prosecutor
/s/ Michael Yeksavich, Attorney for the Defendant

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 4, April 2004

Case No. CRF 2003-25

In the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District Court: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff,
vs. Wynema J. Roberts, Defendant

Judgment and Sentence on Plea of Guilty

Now on this 16th day of February, 2004, the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, present in open court and represented by Michael Yeksavich and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Shannon L. Prescott, Assistant Prosecutor.

The defendant having been legally charged by Information filed in this case with a criminal offense and having been duly

arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT 1: Fraud and False Pretenses** as charged in said Information.

The Court prior to accepting said plea informed the defendant of her Constitutional rights, including her right to legal counsel and trial by jury; her right to be confronted by her accusers and her right to the privilege against compulsory self-incrimination; and in response to questioning by the Court, the defendant said that she understood her Constitutional rights and she waived each of them, and persisted in her plea of guilty. The Court further informed the defendant of the minimum and maximum penalty provided by law for the aforesaid offense, and the effect of such plea; and after being further interrogated by the Court the defendant stated that she is guilty of said crime and that her plea of guilty is voluntary and is made by her without inducement or coercion.

The Court thereupon accepted the defendant's plea of guilty to the aforesaid crimes; and the defendant having been asked by the Court whether she had any legal cause to show why judgment and sentence should not now be pronounced against her, and stating no such sufficient cause, and none appearing to the Court;

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, is guilty of the crimes of **COUNTS 1: Fraud or False Pretenses.**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE COURT that the defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, be committed to the custody of the Chief of the Lighthorse Police for a term of One (1) year Sentence, with all but Thirty (30) days suspended. The thirty days can be served on weekends or evenings. Defendant is also eligible for work release if available.

The remainder of the one year suspended sentence shall remain suspended provided that Defendant timely pay all fines, costs and restitution associated herewith and comply with the Rules and Conditions of Probation signed by the Defendant and the Court, filed in this case and incorporated herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant, Wynema J. Roberts, is to pay fines and costs per the attached Exhibit A.

The Court further advised the defendant of her right to appeal to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, and of the necessary steps to be taken by her to perfect such appeal.

/s/ Honorable Patrick E. Moore, District Court Judge

Attest:
Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk

/s/ Stephanie Thomas, Deputy Court clerk/Notary Public
/s/ Shannon Prescott, Assistant Prosecutor
/s/ Michael Yeksavich, Attorney for the Defendant

Amendment

continued from page 1

ment is approved those persons filing for an odd numbered council seat shall serve for a period of two (2) years and those persons filing for an even numbered seat shall serve a period of four (4) years. The odd numbered seats will stand for election in two years at which time the odd numbered seats shall commence a four year term.

Constitutional Revision New Article Constitutional Convention

Article IX:

Section 2: (A) A Constitutional Convention shall be convened at least once in every five (5) years.

(B) The Constitutional Convention membership shall consist of all eligible voters of the Nation.

(C) A Constitutional Convention Commission is hereby established and shall have the administrative responsibility and authority to conduct the Constitutional Convention. The Constitutional Convention Branch selected by the Principal Chief, two members of the National Council selected by the Speaker, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, District Judge and one eligible voter member from each District selected by the Caucus of National Council Representative of each respective District. In the event any District Caucus fails to make its appointment to the Commission on or before the first day of March in a convention year the seated members of the Commission shall have the authority to nominate and fill any vacancy.

(D) The Constitutional Commission shall organize in February and proceed to carry out the process of a Constitutional Convention that will ensure citizen input and participation from throughout the Nation, completing their work on or before next February. The Commission shall conduct public hearings throughout the Nation to accept citizen views on constitutional amendments, revisions, alterations or additions and shall prepare a public report of all proposed amendments, revisions, alterations and additions. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall then work with the Election Board to prepare wording for separate ballots for each amendment, revision, alteration or addition to be submitted to the citizens at the election, completing this work on or before the last day of February.

(E) Constitutional Convention amendments, alterations, revisions or new articles proposed by such Convention shall be submitted to the eligible voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at a special election, called by the Principal Chief within 60 days, unless there in a general election within sixty (60) days, and approved by a majority of the eligible voters voting thereon before the same shall be effective.

(F) The first Constitutional Convention to be convened under the provisions of this Article shall begin in February after approval of this Article by the eligible voters.

(G) The National Council shall enact such laws as are necessary to ensure a Constitutional Convention is conducted at least once in every five (5) years.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Initiative and referendum:

The citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to this Constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

This power is the initiative and eight percent of the registered voters, voting at the last general election, shall have the right to propose any legislative measures by petition and fifteen percent of the registered voters, voting at the last general election, shall have the right to propose amendments to the Constitution by petition.

Each petition shall include the full text of the measure to be considered.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General shall develop Petition forms that may be obtained by any citizen from the Muscogee (Creek) Election Board.

A Initiative Petition sponsor shall seek approval of a popular name and ballot title from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General, who shall approve or cause to be made a substitute popular name within thirty days.

The completed Initiative Petition shall then be filed with the Election Board and the sponsor must then circulate the Petition for the required number of registered voter signatures, names and addresses within the next calendar one hundred twenty days. The sponsor must then return the petition to the Election Board for verification of the voter signature, name and address. Verification shall be completed by the Election Board within fourteen calendar days after receipt.

Petitions containing the verified and required percent of registered voters shall then be presented to the Principal Chief by the Election Board and the Principal Chief shall call a special election to approve or disapprove the initiative within sixty days.

The citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reserve the power at their option to approve or reject at the polls any act of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. This power is the referendum and may be ordered by a petition signed by fifteen percent of the registered voters, voting at the last general election, from each district.

Referendum Petitions must be filed with the Election Board not more than thirty days after the passage of the act, law, resolution or bill upon which referendum is demanded and must be circulated for voter signatures, names and addresses within the next thirty calendar days and returned to the Election Board for verification of the voter signature, name and address. Verification shall be completed by the Election Board within fourteen days. Petitions contain-

ing the verified and required percent of registered voter signatures shall then be presented to the Principal Chief by the Election Board and the Principal Chief shall then call a special election to approve or disapprove the referendum within sixty days.

The veto power of the Principal Chief shall not extend to measures voted on by the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall make suitable statutory provisions for the implementation and conduct of the Initiative and Referendum Petition process.

The percent of registered voters required for the initiative and referendum petition shall be based upon the total number of registered voters who voted in the last general election.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Article V:

Section 1: (A) The executive power shall be vested in and shall be known as the office of Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Principal Chief shall hold office during a term of four (4) years upon election by majority of the votes cast. The term of office shall begin the first Monday in the new calendar year (January). Whenever the Principal Chief shall be absent from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, incapacitated or unable to discharge the powers and duties of office all the executive power and duties shall be exercised and discharged by the Second Chief and such additional duties assigned by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

(C) In the case of vacancy, whether by removal, death, or resignation of the Office of Principal Chief, the line of succession shall be the Second Chief who shall be elected in the same manner as prescribed for Principal Chief. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Second Chief, that an election be held within 60 days to fill the Office of Second Chief.

Responses may be submitted to: Muscogee (Creek) National Council; c/o Constitutional Amendment Committee; P.O. Box 158; Okmulgee, OK 74447; or (800) 482-1979, ext. 7966.

I, Terry Jones, am announcing my candidacy for the McIntosh County Sherriff. I am a Democrat that has been a life-long resident of McIntosh County. I understand the needs and interests of its citizens. I am married to Brandy Edmondson and we have three children. My parents are Adam Jones Jr. and Mary Jane (Jordan) Jones. My brother is Adam (AJ) Jones III, and my sister is Kelly Jones Smith. My grandparents are JB and Beth Jordan, Mary Pearl Carey Jordan, the late Rev. Adam Jones Sr. and the late Hattie Morrison Jones, all of McIntosh County. I am a member of Little Coweta Indian Baptist church, and am currently employed with the Muscogee Creek Nation Lighthorse Police Department. I graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, (Department of Treasury) in Artesia, New Mexico and Council Law Enforcement Education and Training in Oklahoma (C.L.E.E.T.). Like you, Brandy and I work every day to raise our young family in these uncertain times. I struggle with the same issues and concerns that you have regarding the safety of the community. All issues need to be addressed." I will work for the good of all of the citizens of McIntosh County. I look forward to meeting each one of you and listening to your concerns. We are blessed to live in a free country where we have the privilege of electing our public officials. Your vote counts. Let's change things together on July 27, "Vote Terry Jones Sheriff"



PAID ADVERTISING BY JONES CAMPAIGN

SENORA BURGESS

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Senora Sam Burgess were held February 22 at Robert Simons Funeral Home with Rev. Nelson Harjo officiating.

He was born in Schulters on March 5, 1916 to Senora Samuel and Evah Patton Burgess. Senora married Juanita Marie Brace on May 11, 1940 at Okmulgee.

Sam retired in 1983 after 27 years as a machinist at Bell Helicopter in Hurst, Texas.

Burgess was preceded in death by one sister, Ann Penfield and one brother, Phelix Burgess. Survivors include: wife; three sons, Robert and Kenneth, both of Irving, and Raymond Burgess of Maryland; brother, Lee Burgess of Oklahoma City; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Interment was at Okmulgee Cemetery.

WESLEY BUTLER

HANNA — Funeral services for Wesley Noah Butler were held January 5 at Hillabee Baptist Church with Rev. Richmond Carr, Rev. James Coker, and Second Chief Alfred Berryhill officiating.

He was born in Hanna to Ellen Bullett and Andrew Butler on September 3, 1952. Wesley lived and worked as a welder in Tulsa and Okmulgee but Hanna was always his home. Butler was very dedicated to his Ceremonial Ground Pagan Tullahassee (Peach Ground) and proud to be the Tvstvnke.

Wesley loved to fish, hunt, watch sports (professional and local high school games), go to church, his favorite was Hillabee Baptist. He has a good outlook on life even with his failing health. He tried to make everyone laugh, either by telling a joke, pulling a prank or using one of his one-liners.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Roman "Cooksy" Butler.

Survivors include: special friend, Sheila Harjo of the home and Lesley "Fvlvsko" Harjo; three sons, Vincent of Cromwell and Wesley Butler Jr. of Bixby, and Brandon Pigeon of Okmulgee; one stepson; four stepdaughters; brother, Andrew Ray Butler of Hanna; and four sisters, Julie Mendoza and Christine Butler of Tulsa, Leta Marshall of Okmulgee, and Edna Belcher of Eufaula.

Pallbearers include: Ace Bucker, Jerry, Roger, Ronald, Randall, and Cory Butler. Honorary pallbearers were: B.J. and Huey Butler; Earnest, Stormie, Christian Harjo; Johnathan Buckley; Jack and Davy Hill; and Charley Noriega.

Interment was at the Butler Family Cemetery in Hanna.



Butler

Correction: The obituary for Bettie Reed listed in last month's edition should have listed her niece, Leah and great-nephew, Oliver Ware, both of Shawnee. The Muscogee Nation News staff regrets the error and apologizes to the Reed family.

Obituary notice: If you would like to publish any obituaries in the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center's monthly newsletter please contact: Laura Wesley, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132; phone, 298-2464; or fax, 298-2466.

ANN GORDON

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Ann L. Gordon were held February 5 at the Kelley Chapel with Reverend Greg Keith officiating.

She was born July 16, 1927 to Porter and Stella Haynes Cox. Ann retired as the resident manager of the Creek Nation Elderly Housing and enjoyed gardening and playing pool.

Preceding her in death were: husband, William B.; infant son, William Gary; four brothers, Jack, Rufus, Porter and Chief Claude Cox; and two sisters, Elizabeth Medberg and Sarah Archer.

Survivors include: two daughters, Sharen Peoples of Woodward and Karen Tozer of Okmulgee; three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

LORENE HICKS

CASTLE — Funeral services for Lorene Hicks were held April 1 at the Okfuskee Indian Community Center with Reverend Harry Douglas officiating.

She was born in Bearden on December 6, 1923 to Sam and Malley Little. Lorene was a homemaker who loved her family and spending time with them. She also enjoyed being out in the cool, crisp air and picking up pecans.

Hicks was of the Baptist Faith and was a member of Prairie Springs Church. She was married to Joe Hicks.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; husband; four brothers; and one sister. Survivors include: three sons, Johnie of Okmulgee, Terry and Simmer Hicks, both of Okemah; five daughters, Aggie Beaver of Wetumka, Annie Hicks of Castle, Louannie Walters of Haydenville, Mary Walters and Rita Tiger, both of Okemah; twenty grandchildren; twenty-three great grandchildren; and a host of other family and friends.

Interment was at the Hicks Family Cemetery.

REV. JOHN LOWE

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Rev. John Lowe were held February 5 at Arbeka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Allison Phillips officiating and assisted by Rev. Wilson Hicks.

He was born on March 24, 1922 in Wewoka, to Jemama Harjo and Jackson Lowe. John was married to Minnie Randall Lowe for about 50 years.

John was the Pastor of Arbeka Indian Baptist Church since 1978. Lowe was a retiree from Tinkerfield Airforce Base and was a veteran from the U.S. Army. He was remembered as a faithful servant to the Lord.

Preceding him in death were: his wife; parents; three sisters; and four brothers. Survivors include: daughters, Rachael Sumka of Henryetta; sons, Wilbert, Tony, and Marvin, all of Bryant, John J. of Tahlequah, and Tim Lowe of Mounds; three sisters; one brother, eighteen grandchildren; twenty-three great-grandchildren; and a host of friends and family.

BETTY MCGIRT

EUFULA — Funeral services for Betty Mae McGirt were held January 31 at Kelley Memorial Chapel with Revs. Birdcreek Phillips and Dion Francis officiating.

She was born December 30, 1931, in McIntosh County to Thomas and Christy Charity Francis.

Betty attended Goodland and Chilocco. On January 26, 1952, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, she married Chester McGirt.

She was a homemaker and also worked at the White Stag sewing factory. McGirt was a member of the Artussee Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; son, Marcus McGirt; grandson, Marcus Sampson McGirt; three brothers; and three sisters. Survivors include: sons, Chester of Sapulpa, Patrick of Oklahoma City, and Michael McGirt of Eufaula and Daniel Billy of Stilwell; daughters, Christy Estep and Lillie McGirt, both of Eufaula and Patricia Hudson of Oklahoma City; brother, William Francis of Kansas City, Missouri; sister, Martha Phillips; twelve grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Pallbearers include: Francis and Jackson Lewis; Robert, Wesley, and David Francis; and Shane Holuby. Honorary pallbearers were: Rodney Billy; Tom Francis; Raymond Tiger, and Bill Phillips.

Interment was at Charles Cemetery in Eufaula.

GAY MORGAN

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral services for Gay Robert Morgan were held March 15 at the Holdenville Cemetery.

He was born November 1, 1918 in Holdenville to Willie E. and Emma Miller Morgan.

Following his service in the National Guard at Holdenville for three years, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in June 1940. His service continued throughout World War II until November 1945. After the war he was employed in the Dept. of the Air Force at Tinker AFB as an Aircraft Mechanic. Morgan retired June 1975, after thirty-two years of service.

Gay married Geraldine Haley Morgan on February 14, 1945. He was a longtime member, participating member and Deacon of First Christian Church of Midwest City.

Preceding him in death were: his parents; his brothers, Raymond and Fred Morgan; and his sister, Doris Smith.

Morgan is survived by his wife and sons, David of Oklahoma City and John of Social Circle, Georgia.

Memorial gifts may be made to the First Christian Church, P.O. Box 30973, Midwest City, OK 73140.

CESAR PEREZ-WILSON

TWIN HILLS — Funeral services for Cesar Perez-Wilson were held December 30 at Concharty United Methodist Church with Rev. Newman Frank Jr. and Rev. Joe Lowe Jr. officiating.

He was born to Manuel Perez and Minniefee Perez-Wilson on May 1, 2003 in Okmulgee.

Cesar was preceded in death by his maternal great grandparents, Solomon and Nicey Wilson, Raymond Barnett, and Cora Lowe.

Survivors include: his parents; sister, Erika Perez-Wilson; maternal grandparents, John Sr. and Lucinda Wilson, all of Okmulgee; and paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Perez of Tulsa.

Casketbearers were Jared and Nathan Wilson. Honorary casketbearers were John Jr., Thomas, and Solomon Wilson.



Wilson

Shop talk with Gerald

Well, with another March Madness coming to a close, we hope everyone did okay on their bracket selections. Congratulations to Oklahoma State and their amazing run through the NCAA tourney.

Oh March! You can always count on good basketball and good wild onions! But with the passing of such a spectacular part of the year brings us the promise of a new season, outdoor sports.

Yep, we know you're putting that basketball in the closet and getting out that good old comfortable ball glove. Some of you diehards even put your face in it and smell the leather, come on be honest!

Hey, I don't blame you, this is the right time of the year. We all need to be outside, and sports is a good way of doing that.

Congratulations to the committee of the All-Indian March Madness Basketball Tournament. The event, held on March 18 through the 20 was a complete success. Lucas Taylor, coordinator of the event would like to thank everyone who lended their help and to all the fans who came and supported the tournament and their team.

The Girls Championship saw the John Crow IV Memorial Foundation team defeat CRJ. While on the boys side, the Dream Team was victorious over the John Crow IV Memorial Foundation.

Our thanks to Mike Houck, Director of Basketball and Media relations at the University of Oklahoma. Mike was very instrumental in being a liaison with Coach Kelvin Sampson who wrote a welcome letter supporting the tournament.

A very special thanks goes out to Dewar Girl's Head Coach Todd Been. The Dragons Coach has been a believer in the tournament all along. Other locations were certainly looked at to host the tournament, but were met with questionable opposition. Been was very accommodating and helped to insure good Indian basketball would be showcased. In a time where Native American youth have opportunities to express their talents, Coach Been stepped up to the plate. Thanks coach!

Video and DVD copies of the championship games, as well as the individual competitions and a special music video featuring highlights from the overall tournament, will be produced and made available for ordering from the Communications Department. The DVD set can be purchased for \$20. For more information contact Gerald at (918) 732-7635.

Many thanks to all the Muscogee (Creek) citizens out there who are submitting information about their favorite Creek athletes. Its important we let everyone know they are accomplishing a lot. So keep bringing us that information about those good Creek athletes that are playing so well this year. As in the words of newsman Paul Harvey-"He who toots his own horn, gets his horn tooted!"

Schulter player enjoys success on the hardwood

SCHULTER — The 1st Annual All-Indian March Madness Basketball Tournament brought out the best in area Native American athletes. One of those athletes was 5'8" freshman Rikki Wolfe.

Wolfe played for the John Crow IV Memorial Foundation girls team during the tournament. Her team placed first and she was one of the five selected to the All-Tournament team. She also captured the crown of three point champion during the special events held Friday evening.

Wolfe attends Schuler High School, and like a lot of Creek children, it was destined that she would play some sport.

Fortunately, for her teammates and Coach Bruce Magness, she chose the sport of basketball. Wolfe says it wasn't until she reached the second grade that she really got into playing seriously - talk about your late starts!

Even though Wolfe just completed her first year on the High School squad, she was very much a part of the Lady Bulldogs success. Wolfe saw her team post a record of 20 wins and only 8 losses.

When Schuler went on the road, Wolfe and the Lady Bulldogs also saw success in tournament play. Schuler won

the Wilson Tournament which is always a big stage for local basketball rivals and fans.

The Lady Bulldogs are a part of the Crossroads Conference, which features the likes of Dustin, Graham, Hanna, and Henryetta-Wilson. Schuler finished as Co-Champs of the Conference along with Dustin.

When post season action started, the Lady Bulldogs were crowned District Champs, and were the runner-ups in regional play. The team was able to make it to the area tournament in Enid before falling to Ringwood High School.

Wolfe realizes there is always room for improvement in all aspects of her game and is willing to make the commitment toward this. Her average was steady this year with 13 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, and 4 blocks per game. She was selected All-Conference which allowed her to showcase her talents in the Conference All-Star Game.

Although much success was seen throughout the year, Wolfe claims her best game was probably against Canadian who were undefeated at the time. The game went into double overtime with Schuler prevailing. The game also saw Wolfe score 16 points, and grab 10 rebounds-her highest of the regular season.

Wolfe isn't the only Creek girl helping the Lady Bulldogs to a great season, senior Connie Harjo and sophomore Courtney Tamplen also contributed greatly.

Wolfe hopes that when her playing days at Schuler are over, she will be awarded a college basketball scholarship to continue the only sport she ever really wanted to play.

Wolfe attends Newtown Methodist Church and is a member of the Bird Clan. Her parents are Rick and Minnie Wolfe.



Wolfe

Creek weightlifter breaks state high school record

MORRIS — In today's society, the emphasis is always placed on mental strength. Qualities such as character and fortitude are also a prerequisite in the modern world. But physical strength has always been admired. In some instances physical strength may secretly be given more respect from the masses than the above mentioned.

The Biblical tale of King Saul showed how a person with powerful physical presence can be judged a qualified leader.

Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Marcus Duvall of Morris High School is considered a leader of sorts and definitely receives a lot of respect from his classmates.

Duvall recently set a state high school weightlifting record in the deadlift contest held at Norman North High School on March 12 of this year.

Duvall deadlifted approximately 655 pounds, breaking the old record set by another Muscogee

(Creek) Citizen, Mark Holatta, who is also from Morris. Holatta's record was 610 pounds.

Holatta was on hand to watch the competition. Actually, Duvall and Holatta are good friends. "He (Holatta) wished me good luck and was glad that it was someone from Morris that was setting a new record," said Duvall.

Duvall also set another record as well. He set a new total weight record as well. All competitors are judged by their weight total, that is exactly how much total weight they lift in each competition.

Duvall, out of three lifts combined, set a new High School State record at 1,585.

Duvall, who also plays football for the Tigers, says he has been weightlifting seriously since about the 7th grade.

Duvall, who is a senior, plans to attend NEO A&M and specialize in Sports and Health Science.



Duvall



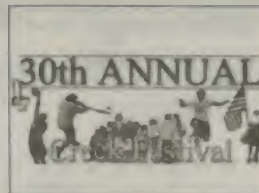
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Creek girls are
fashionably sporty

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www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/

E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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President Bush appoints two tribal employees to serve on Indian education advisory council

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President George W. Bush appointed Greg Anderson, Eufaula Dormitory Administrator, and Virginia Thomas, JOM Program Manager, to serve on his 13 member National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

President Bush signed their commissions on April 29. They were sworn in by Secretary of Education Rod Paige the following day at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. They were present at the White House as President Bush signed the Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education.

Greg Anderson is the Administrator of the Eufaula Dormitory. He has been with program for 19 years, 13 as an administrator. He has been involved in education issues at many levels and has served on several federal committees for improvements for education.

He currently serves as co-chairman of the BIA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for the No Child Left Behind Education Reform Act, which was enacted by President Bush and Congress in 2001. Anderson earned a B.A. Degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's Degree in Education Administration from East Central Oklahoma University.

Virginia Thomas is the manager of the Johnson O' Malley Program for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which serves 45 school districts and approximately 13, 700 students. Thomas is a founding member of the National Johnson O' Malley Association.

She has been involved with JOM for the past 32 years as a tutor, counselor, home school coordinator, teacher, program coordinator, and other positions. She also serves as the Treasurer of the Executive Council for the Okmulgee Indian Community. She earned a B.A. in Elementary from San Diego State University.

For more information contact: Greg Anderson at (918) 689-2522; Virginia Thomas at (918) 732-7839; or Bernard Garcia, U.S. Department of Education, at (202) 260-1454 or visit www.whitehouse.gov.

Chief Ellis, Housing Authority help boy realize dream



During his State of the Nation Address on January 31, Chief Ellis read a letter from tribal citizen Michael Long. Long described in detail the present living conditions his family was having to endure at the time. He wrote the letter without his mother having any knowledge of his request. His dream was to be able to have living conditions that would allow him and his brother to have their friends come over. Chief Ellis and the Forced Account department at the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation formulated a plan to have this boy's dream come true. At the National Council's April meeting, Chief Ellis announced that work was completed on the Long family's home. "I commend Michael for his courage of writing this letter," stated Chief Ellis. Michael and his mother were in attendance during the Chief Ellis' address. Michael wasn't much for words, but his smile spoke loud and clear.

photo by Ruth Bible

Tribe and Weleetka city officials partner to build parking lot

WELEETKA — In 1998, the Weleetka community accepted the keys to a new building, but the parking lot was never completed. After several meetings and inquiries, the Indian community went to the City of Weleetka to discuss working together. With the help of several people in the different departments, an agreement was made between the city of Weleetka and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

This was very beneficial for the City of Weleetka, because they can now use this as a springboard to complete for more federal dollars for a spring project. Tribal legislation was passed in 2003 and the work began in April of this year.

"Chief Ellis has been a constant supporter of this project, monitoring the progress and administering the

involvement of the Nation's employees," stated National Council Representative Sandi Golden. "For the past three years he has attended and spoke at the annual community banquet for graduates."

Jack Chaney, Manager of Tribal Roads and Patrick

Freeman, Construction Engineer, have been working diligently with the contractor that was hired by the City of Weleetka. The city council and city clerk conducted the bidding and all requirements for obtaining a contractor. At this time the completion date for the parking lot is scheduled for sometime in May.

"The Indian Community is

very proud of the working relationship that has developed with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the City of Weleetka," stated Golden.



Office of the Principal Chief...

Hello. It's 3 p.m., May 7th and this article is due in the news office by 5 p.m. I just can't hardly find enough time to address every issue that needs attention but here it goes.

I guess everyone has learned about our involvement with Fountainhead Resort. We did not purchase the resort yet, we only purchased the existing mortgage and are now in the process of acquiring complete ownership. The nation plans to eventually acquire and produce a great family destination resort and fun center. We have also asked to State of Oklahoma to consider giving us the Fountainhead State Park System.

Another huge move was for the Creek Nation to assume control over the Creek Nation Housing Authority of Oklahoma. This has been discussed for many years and finally the new administration was backed by the complete National Council and legislation was passed. We exercised our tribal sovereignty and self determination to provide tribal jurisdiction over all but a tiny bit of the Housing Authority. We feel that tribal government, tribal employees, and tribal law will provide a much needed improvement and additional housing, construction, and emergency repairs for our Creek citizens. Please bear with us for



about 30 days for the transition period.

Sadly, we lost **California Fixico** during April. **California** was the third of our remaining original allottees. The remaining two are **Martha Berryhill**, born 7-12-1900 and **Lucy Etta Benham** born in Dallas, Texas on 1-6-1905 (newborn).

On April 17th, all Ceremonial Ground Mekko's were invited to the mound building for annual meeting of the Mekko's. Fourteen grounds were present and each ground was asked to discuss their needs and comment about our nation. There were two hours of very informative discussion and I thank all involved for their attendance and cooperation. *Mvto.*

Also, I thank **Judge Moore** and his District Court for providing the great traditional meal and thank **Melba Williams**, **Ramona Mason**, and many other volunteers.

April 28th was the one year anniversary for Sapulpa Elderly Nutrition. Great people and great place to eat.

May 6th was the 4th Annual Cultural Day at the complex. This is always a great success and the child development center does a great job to educate our children.

Everybody remember June 18th and 19th is Creek Nation Festival time. Be sure to catch the All Indian Rodeo because it is going to be special this year.

I was just notified by the farm personnel that our new buffalo herd that was acquired has just produced a new bull calf. How about a name? I would like all students to please respond and we'll provide a great prize.

Good luck and good health to all. May God bless this Muscogee Nation. *Mvto.*

by **A.D. Ellis**

OIC Seniors thanks supporters

Editor:

The Okmulgee Indian Community Seniors sponsored a Taco Sale for the National Council on January 31, 2004. The event was a fund-raiser for two trips – one on a trip to Wisconsin for the National Indian Council on Aging in August 2004 and the other a trip to Washington D.C. on September 21, 2004 for the opening of the Smithsonian Museum for the American Indian.

There was a big turnout and we thank all the Council members and new executive staff as well as all the guests.

We are looking forward to another event soon.

Esther Grona, Okmulgee

Sovereignty or Communism – Which is it?

Editor:

Webster's Dictionary defines Sovereignty as 1) the state or quality of being sovereign, 2) the status, dominion, rule, or power of a sovereign, 3) supreme and independent political authority, 4) a sovereign or governmental unit.

Webster's defines communism as a one party political structure, with emphasis on the requirements of the state rather than on individual liberties.

This letter may seem a bit harsh in regards to the civil liberties a citizen of the Muscogee Nation does not have, but it is reality.

The Muscogee Nation is an independent political entity having independent political authority and is a sovereign state and governmental unit. The same is true with the Tulsa Creek

Indian Community.

Sovereign Immunity is defined as a government's immunity from being sued in its own courts without its consent. Meaning that a suit by a citizen of the Muscogee Nation (or anyone for that matter) against the Nation itself is not going to happen without the explicit permission of the Nation. Furthermore, what the sovereign immunity definition does not elicit is the one party scenario. The Muscogee Nation is a one party political entity. What I mean by "one party" is that there are no democrats or republicans running for the office of Chief, nor are there separate political parties running for the various council seats.

Again, sovereign immunity is not implied; it is explicit. Whereby the Muscogee Nation and the Tulsa Creek Indian Community cannot be sued without their consent whether by a citizen of the Muscogee Nation, a member of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community or by a non-citizen of either entity. Of course there are probably some minute areas that allow some sort of legal recourse to a worker of the Muscogee Nation, or a worker of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community of which I am not aware of and I will not venture into that arena.

Lets take a look at the United States as a whole. The United States government, and each independent state, cannot be sued without its consent. However, there are provisions that allow the United States government to be sued by a citizen as is the same with the independent states. Along with the ability to sue the government and a state there are provisions that protect an individual citizen of the United States from governmental intrusion into an individual's civil rights. Those pro-

tections are found in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. However, these constitutional protections do not trickle down and afford protection to the citizens of the Muscogee Nation. This is due to the fact that we are a sovereign nation. If you look into the Constitution of the Muscogee Nation, you will find that there are no constitutional provisions that protect a citizen of the Muscogee Nation from governmental intrusion into a Muscogee citizen's civil rights. Basically, a citizen of the Muscogee Nation is not afforded any protection from our government. Our government can violate any civil rights they choose and not have to face scrutiny in our tribal court system. The reality of this scenario is the inability of a citizen of the Muscogee Nation to go into tribal court to sue the Muscogee Nation for violating his or her civil rights. Be that as it may, as a citizen of Oklahoma and of the United States, you are afforded certain protections against the government for violating your civil rights. If your rights have been violated as a citizen of Oklahoma and of the United States, you may be able to go into District Court or Federal Court to have your complaint argued; not true in the Muscogee Nation.

I am well aware of the fact that the Muscogee Nation is in the process of asking the citizens of the Muscogee Nation to amend our present day constitution to have a more definite provision regarding the civil rights of each and every citizen of this wonderful Nation. However, it is my understanding that

please see **LETTERS**..., page 13

Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Ruth Bible, page layout
Jennifer Taryole, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the February 28, regular session.

February 28, Regular session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District.

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (24-0-0) TR 04-009 authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for a new data base system for the citizenship office;

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek District; **Harjo**, Creek District; **Barnett**, Creek District; **Notaro**, McIntosh District; **McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Parish**, Muskogee District; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee District; **Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Jones**, Okmulgee District; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **Williams**, Okmulgee District; **Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Ade**, Tukvptce District; **Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Bible**, Tulsa District; **Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Hufft**, Tulsa District; **Kelley**, Tulsa District; **Berryhill**, Wagoner District; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner District;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-019, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of an easement for telecommunications service to the food distribution center;

- approved unanimously as amended (24-0-0) TR 04-021, authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate for and purchase restricted property in Okmulgee county, Oklahoma located on the western boundary of the nation's tribal headquarters in Okmulgee, Oklahoma;

Speaker relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Berryhill** to address TR 04-024

- approved as amended (23-2-0) TR 04-024, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of land in Hughes County, Oklahoma, and to enter into an agreement with the Tulsamucasse Etalwa (New Tulsa ceremonial ground) for use of property;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved (15-9-0) TR 04-026, authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate a contract for the purchase of the Wetumka General Hospital located in Wetumka, Oklahoma;

- approved unanimously to return to committee (24-0-0) TR 04-030, mandating that any architectural firm or construction company be denied the opportunity to engage in any tribal bidding process for future architectural designing or construction project(s) at the tribal or community level unless the majority ownership of aforementioned business entities can provide authenticated documentation to the tribal administration and national council that the controlling ownership (51% or more) is comprised of a member of a federally recognized tribe;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) TR 04-033, approving the selection of contractors for bid #2004-003,

the rehabilitation of twenty (20) Okemah affordable units (low rent apartments) and bid #2004-005, rehabilitation of four (4) privately owned homes, one (1) mutual help home, and one (1) vacant mutual help home;

- failed unanimously (0-24-0) NCA 04-003, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2004 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 03-209 and NCA 03-248;

- approved to return to committee (15-9-0) NCA 04-004, repealing NCA 94-10 (substitute) and establishing a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

representative **Golden** was out of seat at time of casting of vote

- approved unanimously as amended (23-0-0) NCA 04-017, appropriating supplemental funds for the purchase of a database system for the citizenship board;

- approved unanimously as corrected (24-0-0) NCA 04-025, reaffirming and amending NCA 86-36 "buy creek act"

- approved as corrected (22-1-1) NCA 04-026, authorizing the expenditure of a grant entitled "The Robert Wood Johnson foundation" for tobacco prevention program's fiscal year 2004 budget;

voting no were: **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-027, amending NCA 99-10 ("Muscogee Business Enterprise Act") to change the position of general manager to director;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-028, amending NCA 99-22 ("Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal trade & commerce authority act") to change the position of general manager to director;

representative **Nichols** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously as amended (23-0-0) NCA 04-029, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in Okmulgee, County, Oklahoma located on the western boundary of the nation's tribal headquarters in Okmulgee, Oklahoma;

representative **Jones** was excused and **Nichols** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-031, authorizing the expenditure of the Beverly Foundation award;

representative **Nichols** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved as amended (20-2-0) NCA 04-032, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen;

voting no were: **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee and **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- approved unanimously as corrected (22-0-0) NCA 04-033, authorizing an annual appropriation of funds for

community development block grants, designating how those funds shall be disbursed and amending title 11, §2-102, regarding technical assistance and training to communities;

- approved (20-3-0) NCA 04-035, establishing the executive office reorganization act of 2004 and repealing NCA 96-18 (establishing the executive office reorganization act of 1996) and amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation code annotated (MCNCA) Title 21, §2-102 entitled "appointment and term of office";

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Bible** was excused;

representative **Barnett** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (19-2-0) NCA 04-036, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in Hughes County, Oklahoma;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-038, appropriating funds for the Hanna Indian Community;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-039, authorizing an appropriation for the spring celebration sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation partnership board;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-040, authorizing a special appropriation of funds for a Creek citizen;

- approved as amended (21-1-0) NCA 04-041, authorizing a special appropriation of funds to the Arbeka Indian Baptist church;

voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

- approved unanimously as amended (22-0-0) NCA 04-042, authorizing a special appropriation for the office of the national council for technology upgrade;

speaker relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Berryhill**;

- approved unanimously as amended (22-0-0) NCA 04-046, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen;

March 23, Emergency session

Absent were: **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; and **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (20-2-0) TR 04-042, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and peoples national bank of Checotah and Oklahoma industrial finance authority for the purchase of the mortgages and promissory notes associated with Fountainhead Resort located in McIntosh County;

voting no were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

- approved (20-2-0) NCA 04-062, appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of mortgages and promissory notes associated with Fountainhead Resort located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma;

voting no were **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Hufft**, Tulsa.

Education

Freshman selected to attend Phillips Academy

ANDOVER, MA —Jalin Keawphalouk, a freshman at Seminole high school has been selected to attend the Phillips Academy in math and science.

The summer academy is a three year commitment. Math could range from algebra, calculus as well as other specific math topics. The science will range from chemistry, advanced placement, physics, electricity and computer science. He will also have two years of writing while at the academy.

The third year will be an exposure to Boston college, Boston University, Dartmouth, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of technology.

Keawphalouk will be required to attend from June 29 to Aug. 1.

Jalin is the son of Yotin and Clara Mae Keawphalouk of Seminole; and the grandson of the late George and Hattie Alexander of Lamar.

Citizen participates in OU Creek language class

NORMAN —On April 3 students from the University of Oklahoma who are enrolled in Creek language courses I, II, and III, participated in the third annual "Creek Songfest".

Approximately 50 students sang and the audience enjoyed songs such as: Pass Me Not, Hallelujah; and In The Sweet By and By all translated in the Creek language. In addition to ten or more songs in the Creek language, one song was done in the native language of Choctaw. Parents and friends enjoyed hearing the beautiful language and many agreed that this has been a long time coming for our people to be able to learn and teach others about our Indian heritage.



Thompson

McClellan participates in the Tulsa art festival

TULSA —Taylor McClellan an eighth grader at Glenpool place first place at the Tulsa Indian Arts festival student art competition.

She received a ribbon and certificate. Taylor along with other Glenpool students and Director Kristi Collington attended a workshop put on by Clarence Gray. Several schools participated and had the opportunity to watch how to do a sculptor of a buffalo.

She is the daughter of Teresa Bible and the granddaughter of Norma and the late Burtis Bible.

McClellan is a member of the Arbeka Tribal Town and of the tiger clan.



McClellan

Watkins graduates from Crescent high school
ANDERSON, SC—Nicholas Watkins is a graduating student from Crescent High School.

His performance in football has earned him many awards. He has been selected for the United States Achievement Academy Award winner in football, honor roll, leadership, service and mathematics.

Other awards include: most improved in track; all region offensive lineman; most outstanding lineman in football; top graded offensive lineman; and a hog tuff lineman award. He recorded over 25 knockdown blocks during his senior year.

Nickolas is the son of Dale and Linda Watkins and the grandson of the late Shawney and Annie Hardridge and the late Grady Watkins.

Watkins has signed with Tusculum College in Tennessee. He plans to make his profession in his favorite sport and to become a professional coach.



Watkins

Births

Maxwell Grant Lindsey

OKLAHOMA CITY —Maxwell Grant Lindsey was born on Feb. 22 at Women's Lakeside

Hospital to Richard Lindsey and Khanhkeo Syribouth.

He weighed 7 lbs. and 2 ounces and was 22 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are the late Vieng and Thongkhay Syribouth.

Paternal grandparents are Eddie and Gretchen Lindsey of Oklahoma City and great grandparents are Tochee Wind of Weleetka and the late William Wind and the late Rev. Eddie and Lucinda Lindsey of Cromwell.



Lindsey

Makhan Oktaha Harjo

RED OAK —Makhan Oktaha Harjo was born on Feb. 19 to Rev. Simmon and Tina Harjo.

He weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Grandparents are Rev. Wayne and Lucille Harjo of Tulsa and Rita West of Okemah. Great grandparents are the late Rev. C.D. and Pauline Harjo. He has one brother, Caleb and two sisters, Acee and Rayna.



Harjo

Four tribal citizen participate in Oklahoma Memorial Marathon

OKLAHOMA CITY— Three Muscogee (Creeks) were among the 7000 that completed the recent Oklahoma Memorial Marathon on April 25. The marathon which began at the gates of the Oklahoma City Memorial ended downtown on Broadway and included: Shoshana Wasserman; Dustin Van Winkle; Kimberly Rodriguez; and Ayla Medrano, ran the last three mile.

Wasserman is a graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor of science degree in education and is currently employed as the public relations director for City Arts Center and Oklahoma Children's Theatre.

She is the granddaughter of Sandy and Sandra Medrano and a member of the Thlopthlocco tribal town.

Dustin Van Winkle is a graduate from the University of Colorado with a bachelor of arts degree in kinesiology.

Dustin is the CEO of Chebon Enterprises, a management company specializing in industrial kitchen design and supply.

He is the son of VaRene Martin and the grandson of Elsie Martin and a member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Kimberly Rodriguez is a graduate of University of North Texas with a bachelor of fine arts degree in photography.

She is currently the merchandise coordinator for Wright Studios in Dallas.

Rodriguez is the daughter of Anita

Rodriguez and the granddaughter of Alma Brown and a member of the bear clan.



Pictured above are: front row, A. Medrano; S. Wasserman; back row, D. Van Winkle; and front row, right, and K. Rodriguez.

Chief Ellis and his administration hold meeting with Ceremonial leaders

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis recently held a meeting to bridge the gap between the Tribal Administration and the Ceremonial Grounds. Principal Chief Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Attorney General Montie Deere and fourteen of the sixteen remaining ceremonial grounds were in attendance.

"I have respect for the grounds and the people of the grounds," stated Ellis "I commend them for carrying on the tradition that has been passed on for hundreds of years. They are largely responsible for keeping the language, culture and tradition preserved. One of my promises was to unite the nation. Today was a historical occasion."

A round table meeting was held giving each Mekko and/or Henhvh the opportunity to voice their concerns and share their hopes to keep the tradition alive for generations to come. Duck Creek Mekko and Elder Simon Harry spoke of his Ceremonial experiences over the past sixty years.

"Sickness has taken a lot of people and it has affected the young ones as well," stated Harry. "I am still trying to carry on what the elders left for me to carry on".

Pole Cat (Kellyville) Mekko Jim Brown, Jr. and Henhvh Lewis Brown commented they grew up on their ground and expressed their dedication to keeping these traditions alive. "We will strive to recruit our young to continue and maintain our heritage," said Brown.

Sand Creek (Iron Post) Mekko Gary Bucktrot shared the same feeling. "Most of the people at my ground are still young," commented Bucktrot. "I encourage them to carry on. Most of their elders are gone."

Green Leaf Mekko Bill Proctor stated that there has not been a meeting of this type since the Fife Administration. He never understood why the last administration never had this type of meeting.

"I felt that the previous administration had their own feelings about the Ceremonial grounds," he stated. "We are still here and we are trying to keep it going".

Hickory Ground Mekko George Thompson felt that the type of meeting was something that the grounds were not use to. "The only communication we had with the tribe was for Green Corn," stated Thompson. "There was no direct communication between the two, hopefully this will start something."

Nuyaka Henhvh Judge Amos McNac spoke of the mis-communication between the tribe and the grounds throughout history.

"If you could come and visit the grounds, get to know the ways and the people, this would put everyone involved at ease in communicating with other parties," he said. "The life of the grounds is the least understood and most mis-understood. I encourage all to visit your ground, know your clan. There is family unity within the tribal town, family ties are there.

Peach Ground Mekko Roman Hill spoke of how his ground doesn't have very many members left. "A



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Daniel Harjo, Hillabee; Jeff Fixico, New Tulsa; Phillip Deere, Jr., Nuyaka; George Thompson, Hickory Ground; Simon Harry, Duck Creek; Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Thomas Yahola, Tallahassee-Cromwell; Jim Brown, Jr. and Lewis Brown, Kellyville(Pole Cat); Felix Brown, Duck Creek; Bill Proctor and Jimmy Deere, Green Leaf; and Barney Harjochee and Felix Hill, Okfuskee. In attendance but not pictured: David Proctor, Tallahassee Wakokaye; Roman Hill, Peach Ground; and Raymond Meeley, Arbeka;

lot of have failing health and some members have passed away," commented Hill. "I am striving to keep Peach Ground going."

Tallahassee Wakokaye Mekko David Proctor echoed the sentiments of the majority in attendance.

"Out of the 44 tribal towns removed, these sixteen grounds are what's left," said Proctor. "In this meeting sit the most distinguished men of the tribe, the Mekkos of the respective Ceremonial Grounds. They hold a great deal of responsibility.

According to Proctor that it is not just a title, a Mekko takes care of his family, children and adults at his ground. Without the Mekko's guidance these grounds would cease to exist.

"This handful of men before you here today are trying to carry on what was left to us by our elders," said Proctor. "Sixty to 70 years ago all the Mekkos were older in age. It was not common to see a Mekko at this young of age."

Each ground welcomed the initiative to bridge the gap between the Tribal administration and the grounds. They hoped this was the first of many more meetings to come in the future.

"I felt the meeting went very well," said Chief Ellis. "Comments from all were very encouraging. I hope to build confidence and trust. We have got to preserve all that we have here."

CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

ALABAMA

Wetumka, Hughes County

ARBEKA

Henryetta, Okmulgee County

DUCK CREEK

Hectorville, Okmulgee county

FISH POND

Cromwell, Seminole County

GREEN LEAF

Okemah, Okfuskee County

HICKORY GROUND

Yardeka Community, McIntosh County

HILLABEE

Hanna, McIntosh County

SAND CREEK(IRON POST)

Iron Post, Creek County

POLE CATE (KELLYVILLE)

Kellyville, Creek County

WEOGUFKEE(MUDDY WATER)

Hanna, McIntosh County

NEW TULSA

Spaulding, Hughes County

NUYAKA

Okemah, Okfuskee County

OKFUSKEE

Okemah/Mason, Okfuskee County

PEACH GROUND

Hanna, McIntosh County

TALLAHASSEE - CROMWELL

Okemah, Okfuskee County

TALLAHASSEE - WAKOKAYE

Okemah, Okfuskee County

GENERAL FUND:	BUDGETS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	BALANCE
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	261,208.00	0.00	0.00	261,208.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	793,400.00	1,075.00	33,400.00	758,925.00
TREASURY	3,231.00	0.00	0.00	3,231.00
ANGEL TREE	2,333.00	0.00	1,066.00	1,267.00
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	34,903.00	34,903.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,483,480.00	30,943.00	389,992.00	1,062,545.00
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	565,420.00	12,319.00	43,853.00	509,248.00
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	2,474,609.00	91,881.00	593,910.00	1,788,818.00
CREEK NATION BINGO	14,289,517.00	2,325,924.00	2,674,433.00	9,289,160.00
CN PERMANENT FUND	621,366.00	25,126.00	137,990.00	458,250.00
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	0.00	0.00	16,355.00	(16,355.00)
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	3,413.00	0.00	0.00	3,413.00
CODIFICATION	120,000.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	3,000.00	477.00	2,523.00	0.00
HENSSLER ASSET MGMT	0.00	0.00	7,462.00	(7,462.00)
MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	151,907.00	13,457.00	139,883.00	(1,433.00)
TRIBAL BUDGET	72,042.00	0.00	7,500.00	64,542.00
MCN FLAGS & ETC	0.00	1,891.00	0.00	(1,891.00)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MOTOR VEHICLE	1,068,265.00	266,334.00	142,023.00	659,908.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	21,948,099.00	2,804,330.00	4,310,390.00	14,833,379.00
DEPT OF LABOR:				
WIA-TITLE I '02	22,611.00	0.00	2,698.00	19,913.00
WIA-TITLE I '03	509,309.00	3,227.00	162,656.00	343,426.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '03	107,986.00	2,228.00	30,902.00	74,856.00
WELFARE TO WORK '99	37.00	0.00	0.00	37.00
TOTAL DEPT OF LABOR	639,943.00	5,455.00	196,256.00	438,232.00
HOUSING & URBAN DEV:				
HUD-NAHASDA '00	3,798,836.00	673,411.00	1,148,880.00	1,976,545.00
HUD-SPAULPA CLINIC	25,728.00	15,573.00	10,155.00	0.00
HUD-ROSS '01	102,593.00	0.00	0.00	102,593.00
HUD-NAHASDA '01	10,346,554.00	0.00	647,209.00	9,699,345.00
HUD-DRUG ELIMINATION	118,220.00	0.00	0.00	118,220.00
HUD-FOOD DIST. BLDG	190,049.00	52,503.00	120,391.00	17,155.00
HUD-NAHASDA '02	17,174,584.00	18,061.00	1,849,660.00	15,306,863.00
HUD-NAHASDA '99	491,526.00	0.00	193,063.00	298,463.00
TOTAL HUD:	32,248,090.00	759,548.00	3,969,358.00	27,519,184.00
DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVC:				
FAMILY PRESERVATION '02	0.00	0.00	(198.00)	198.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '02	176,617.00	4,025.00	69,198.00	103,394.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '02	317,018.00	4,732.00	78,887.00	233,399.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '02	29,203.00	0.00	29,203.00	0.00
LIHEAP '03	2,096.00	0.00	2,096.00	0.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '03	161,732.00	8,516.00	52,158.00	101,058.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '03	1,008,115.00	8,113.00	246,578.00	753,424.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '03	1,298,075.00	26,794.00	438,128.00	833,153.00
HEAD START '03	467,189.00	32,356.00	417,563.00	17,270.00
TITLE IV-B '03	223,693.00	7,458.00	46,516.00	169,719.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '03	244,443.00	21,609.00	20,732.00	202,102.00
LIHEAP '04	119,753.00	305.00	22,520.00	96,928.00
HEADSTART '04	0.00	6,320.00	128,613.00	(134,933.00)
TOTAL DHHS	4,047,934.00	120,228.00	1,552,192.00	2,375,514.00
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE:				
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '04	0.00	2,547.00	63,037.00	(65,584.00)
TOTAL USDA	0.00	2,547.00	63,037.00	(65,584.00)
PROGRAM INCOME:				
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	28,050.00	1,869.00	5,893.00	20,288.00
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	757,130.00	5,101.00	78,454.00	673,575.00
USDA HEADSTART REIMBURSE	76,617.00	21,000.00	15,444.00	40,173.00
EUFULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	34,128.00	0.00	0.00	34,128.00
ELECTION BOARD PROG INC	18,560.00	0.00	6,867.00	11,693.00
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	4,695.00	190.00	1,409.00	3,096.00

Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending December 31, 2003 Pre-
pared by the office of the controller

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending December 31, 2003 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditure, and balance for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending December 31, 2003. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grants or contracts, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending December 31, 2003.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved in the comprehensive annual budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the year.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **balance** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of December 31, 2003.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.

GAMING PROGRAM INCOME	58,327.00	6,070.00	4,982.00	47,275.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD PROG INC	10,424.00	0.00	0.00	10,424.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROG. INC.	5,900.00	2,610.00	0.00	3,290.00
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME	993,831.00	36,840.00	113,049.00	843,942.00
DEPT OF INTERIOR:				
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	7,823,172.00	1,410,257.00	1,866,540.00	4,546,375.00
DOI-ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP	7,576.00	0.00	0.00	7,576.00
EUFAULA DORM '00	126,721.00	0.00	47,350.00	79,371.00
EUFAULA DORM '01	168,882.00	0.00	80,905.00	87,977.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV '01	25,520.00	0.00	15,577.00	9,943.00
LAMAR ROAD	220.00	0.00	0.00	220.00
KELLYVILLE ROAD	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
LITTLE CUSSETH CHURCH RD	76,910.00	0.00	4,836.00	72,074.00
OKEMAH SCHOOL ROAD	57,873.00	20,066.00	3,783.00	34,024.00
THEWARLE CHURCH ROAD	109,126.00	37,078.00	38,298.00	33,750.00
PORTER ROAD	117,660.00	100,000.00	3,462.00	14,198.00
OLD BIXBY ROAD	44,441.00	0.00	4,337.00	40,104.00
SALEM ROAD	91,718.00	2,451.00	6,915.00	82,352.00
SKELLY/HASKELL	601,548.00	23,387.00	577,613.00	548.00
METHODIST CHURCH ROAD	2,621.00	0.00	0.00	2,621.00
HECTORVILLE ROAD	1,283,253.00	125,000.00	1,817.00	1,156,436.00
SUMMIT SOUTH ROAD	194,153.00	192,277.00	562.00	1,314.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '02	11,585.00	5,164.00	5,428.00	993.00
EUFAULA DORM '02	665,518.00	14,189.00	200,142.00	451,187.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '03	9,500.00	1,431.00	3,201.00	4,868.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '03	435,487.00	6,886.00	116,904.00	311,697.00
EUFAULA DORM '03	1,205,227.00	42,630.00	31,335.00	1,131,262.00
OAKDALE SCHOOL BLDG	665.00	0.00	562.00	103.00
MCINTOSH FENCING	577.00	0.00	0.00	577.00
CALVIN NORTH ROAD	1,729,221.00	1,644,306.00	72,796.00	12,119.00
STIDHAM ROAD	443,500.00	443,500.00	0.00	0.00
ARBEKA ROAD	1,595,312.00	1,571,100.00	10,230.00	13,982.00
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	2,996,619.00	189,300.00	93,478.00	2,713,841.00
EUFAULA DORM '99	25,184.00	0.00	0.00	25,184.00
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	41,404.00	0.00	444.00	40,960.00
TOTAL DEPT OF INTERIOR	19,896,193.00	5,829,022.00	3,186,515.00	10,880,656.00
DEPT OF JUSTICE:				
VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE	49,062.00	0.00	1,240.00	47,822.00
DRUG COURT	45,862.00	1,547.00	20,053.00	24,262.00
GAP	110,000.00	0.00	1,529.00	108,471.00
TRIBAL RESOURCES COP	87,239.00	72,552.00	0.00	14,687.00
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	85,513.00	2,622.00	7,233.00	75,658.00
TOTAL DEPT OF JUSTICE	377,676.00	76,721.00	30,055.00	270,900.00
ENTERPRISE FUND:				
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	171,600.00	35,200.00	64,712.00	71,688.00
TULSA COUNTY PROPERTY	0.00	0.00	712,624.00	(712,624.00)
IHS OFFICE BUILDING	22,318.00	0.00	324.00	21,994.00
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROG.	9,483.00	0.00	290.00	9,193.00
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	276,289.00	151,923.00	17,354.00	107,012.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND	479,690.00	187,123.00	795,304.00	(502,737.00)
TRUST & AGENCY FUND:				
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C.N. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	4,415.00	(4,415.00)
TOTAL TRUST & AGENCY FUND	0.00	0.00	4,415.00	(4,415.00)
INTERNAL SERVICE:				
ROAD FORCE ACCOUNT	812,324.00	29,942.00	108,325.00	674,057.00
TRIBAL- REAL PROP & FAC.	1,607,261.00	56,982.00	437,179.00	1,113,100.00
TRIBAL- PROPERTY & SUPPLY	89,910.00	0.00	99,453.00	(9,543.00)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	19,033.00	1,661.00	14,839.00	2,533.00
SELF-INSURED HLTH FUND	0.00	0.00	937,956.00	(937,956.00)
TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE	2,528,528.00	88,585.00	1,597,752.00	842,191.00
SCHOLARSHIPS:				
C.N. FOUND. SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	330.00	(330.00)
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	330.00	(330.00)
TOTALS	83,159,984.00	9,910,399.00	15,818,653.00	57,430,932.00

Health system and IHS to construct health facility

COWETA — The Muscogee Nation Health system applied for and received approval to work with the Indian Health Service to participate in their Joint Venture Program. This is a highly competitive program whereby the tribe agrees to build a facility according to Indian Health Service guidelines, and in return the Indian Health Service agrees to allocate funding for equipment and to fund the operations for the clinic for the next twenty years.

Utilizing the Indian Health Service's criteria, Coweta was identified early on by Health System personnel as an area within the boundaries of the Muscogee Nation that would best fit the requirements for the Joint Venture Program. The National Council approved legislation in 2002 that confirmed this selection.

Following the notice to proceed with the Joint Venture Program, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased 80 acres on the east side of Coweta. Representatives from the Indian Health Service, the Administration of the Muscogee Nation and the Health System participated in a thorough review process and selected an Architectural and Engineering firm and a Construction Management firm with which to construct the clinic.

Due to IHS space requirements, the facility will be very large, in excess of 55,000 square feet, and will provide a full range of outpatient services. The clinic will employ approximately 100 people when fully staffed. The Health system hopes to have the doors of the facility open by October of 2005.



Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Region

The BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Legal Administrative Specialist (probate)
GS-11, Miami, OK
Legal Instruments Examiner GS-6/7/8,
Muskogee, OK
Realty Specialist GS -11/12, Muskogee, OK
Realty Specialist GS 7/9, Muskogee, OK
Superintendent GS-13, Okmulgee, OK
Superintendent GS- 13/14, Pawhuska, OK
Superintendent GS - 13, Wewoka, OK
Deputy Superintendent-Trust Services GS12,
Okmulgee, OK
Surveying Technician GS 7/8/9, Muskogee,
OK
Highway Engineer (2 positions) GS -11/12,
Muskogee, OK

Excellent salary and benefits package. For additional information contact: Human Resources, Anadarko, OK at (405) 247-1655 Equal Opportunity Employer

Diabetes program conducts three week study

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Clinic Diabetes Education Program recently conducted a study with Mariah Lee of Blue Eagle Solutions utilizing the Neuro Care machine on their diabetic patients.

The Neuro Care is a unique electrical stimulator. Different from other units on the market today because of its specially designed circuitry, preset parameters are protocols specially designed for wound healing.

Tests conducted with the machine in the Diabetic Education office of the Okmulgee Clinic received positive results. Based on results from the three week study will be used to influence the tribe in purchasing the machines for the clinic and home use for their patients. This will also help create approximately 25-50 new jobs for the tribe because technicians will need to be hired to train patients on the care and use of the machines.

The Neuro Care machine can be used to relax muscle spasm, prevent or retard disuse atrophy, muscle re-education, maintain or increase range of motion, increase local blood circulation and for immediate post-surgical stimulation of calf muscles to prevent venous thrombosis. The machine has been approved by the FDA.

The machine simulates exercise of the deep muscles which helps to create new capillary beds in the affected area of the body. The new blood being carried to the affected areas helps carry antibiotics and healing to the extremities which are affected by Diabetic Neuropathy. If you are facing amputation from Diabetic Neuropathy it would be a good idea to ask your doctor about the Nuero Care treatment.

Diabetes affects the circulatory system often times resulting in swelling and wounds in the extremities. Properly used electrical stimulation increases the local circulation bringing blood and antibiotics to the affected area in patients with wounds and compromised circulation to the extremities. Deep muscles contractions can be achieved, which simulates exercise and achieves results by working the inactive or injured muscle fibers versus a "fast twitch" on the active muscle, thus strengthening and re-educating the specific injured or atrophied muscle. Treatments can be done without discomfort to the patient.

"The most dramatic testimony I have with this machine is with a patient from Plano, Texas," stated Mariah Lee. "He had Diabetic neuropathy in both feet for about three years with a deep non-healing ulcer under his big toe on the left foot. We started the treatment and after one forty-five minute treatment he stood up and said he could feel the carpet under his feet. We have seen the wound shrink and change color toward healing after only one week of treatment. I believe we have saved his toe from amputation and he is thrilled to have feeling back in his feet."

All it takes for treatment is a doctor's prescrip-

tion and if you have health insurance, most systems will cover the treatment for clinical use or in home rental units.

"I originally became involved with the machine about eight months ago and after some research on electric medicine contacted the manufacturer to become a distributor" said Lee. "I have always wanted my life to have some purpose for a good cause and this machine is the answer. It is my dream to have every Native American clinic in America have this machine available for tribal members in the clinics and in home service. It costs the tribes approximately \$50,000 per foot for amputation and this machine, which can save limbs, is just under \$3,000. How much more cost effective can we get?"

The machine is manufactured by a company owned by Tom Oliver and his wife Debbie who wish to use this machine in full time ministry to the Pima Indian Reservation. They have been wonderful in working with me to help get this business started to serve the Native American Community. They are also considering placing a manufacturing site for this machine in the Okmulgee area and hiring our tribal members for productions and assembly. This would bring approximately 100 to 200 new jobs to the area.

"Having lost an adopted daughter to this cruel disease of Diabetes I know the heartache this disease can cause," said Lee. "I feel that I can now help my native American brothers and sisters with some of the problems that come with this disease."

Lee is an enrolled Muscogee citizen. She attended Eufaula Boarding school for twelve years. She has been a member of the Native American Chamber of Commerce and has served on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Tribal Assistance Program for five years. She was a charter member of the All Tribes Baptist Church under Rev. Bill Thompson. Lee and her husband James own and operate James Lee Automotive, an auto repair shop in Tulsa, for the last twenty five years. James is a race car driver and races in the NHRA circuit. They also operate James Lee Racing and build high performance engines.

As a child at Eufaula dormitory, Lee became acquainted with Native American artist Acee Blue Eagle (Creek/Pawnee) while he was painting the back of the auditorium. She never forgot that and always loved the name Blue Eagle. That is how Blue Eagle Solutions came about.

Blue Eagle Solutions is located in the T.K. Wolf Office Complex at 2121 S. 125th E. Ave. in Tulsa. The treatments are also available at the Natural Medicine Associates. For more information about the Neuro Care machine, contact Mariah Lee at (918) 630.3543 or email: msullilee@aol.com or visit the website at www.nueroicare.com.

Elderly nutrition celebrates

SAPULPA — The Sapulpa Community Center celebrated its first birthday during the April 28 luncheon. In attendance were Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and Claude Sumner, executive director. This visit was part of Chief Ellis' monthly visits to the community centers.

Also present was good food and good times. In only a few minutes among the people there it became obvious that the community center, the volunteers, and the elderly nutrition program was very well liked. After all everyone knows helping the elderly is important, but the volunteers at Sapulpa, and all the community centers, take the time and actually do it, and for that they should all be given our thanks.

Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard

OKMULGEE — The Honor Guard led the Muskogee Azalea Festival parade again this year and was well recieved. Also they posted the colors for Bacone College's Commencement exercise on May 8. Also when possible the Honor Guard provides final military Honors to those who've asked for assistance. "We feel all Honorably discharged veterans deserve it!"

Office of the Treasury Update

OKMULGEE — The Office of the Treasury would like to thank the Administration and the National Council for their support in making the new finance building. Construction is on schedule and it is anticipated they will be moving into the offices before the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2004. This new building will eliminate the need to climb stairs to reach their offices, the primary complaint they've received.

Indian Health Care fights for youth

TULSA — In an effort to combat diabetes in the Native American population, Indian Health Care Resource Center is offering two summer camps for Native American children. The Wellness Adventures camp is a unique camp focused on the health and wellness of Native American children. Participants will enjoy a variety of adventure-based health and fitness activities, including the ROPES Challenge Course. Activities will focus on nutrition, and fitness, diabetes awareness and prevention, cultural awareness, communication and life skills. The camp is available for youth who have completed grades 2 - 7 during the following sessions: June 14 - 18, June 21 - 25, June 28 - July 2, July 12 - 16, or July 18 - 23. This camp meets from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm daily at the Tulsa Public Schools Challenge Course at 1815 N. 77 E. Ave.

The REACH for Fitness camp is available for children who have completed grades K - 3. Fitness camp focuses on physical fitness and motor skill development, and includes concepts of fitness and nutrition. Children will utilize a wide variety of equipment and participate in various games, activities, and sports skills. Fitness camp meets August 9 - 13 from 9 am until noon, or 1 to 4 or August 16 - 20 with the same times, at Jane Adams Elementary School, 5623 S. 65th W. Ave.

All participants must attach a copy of their CDIB card to their enrollment form. Parents may get a copy of this form by calling 588-1900 or by going to Indian Health Care Resource Center at 550 South Peoria 8 - 5 M, T, W, F or 10 - 7 on Thursdays. Transportation to and from the camps is not

provided. For more information please contact Indian Health Care's Heath and Wellness department at 382-1220.

Johnson O'Malley Program

OKMULGEE — The Johnson O'Malley Student Art Competition award presentation and reception was held March 11. Chief Ellis presented the awards, with first place going to Jeremiah Rossen, second place to Chandra Leming and Justin Billie, and third place going to Melissa Sowards. They then moved to the Statewide contest, which was won by a Muskogee Creek student Chandra Leming, from Jenks High School. The winning artwork becomes the logo for the year and appears on program covers, t-shirts, and other items.

Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Social Services Department caseworks go to 5 different field sites each month to take applications for Native Americans needing assistance with basic living needs (shelter and living expenses). For the month of June, the schedule of these sites are: Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, June 1 and 15, 9 - 11 a.m., Muskogee Indian Community Center June 1 1 - 3 p.m., Okemah Indian Community Center June 2 and 16, 9 - 11 a.m., Eufaula Indian Community Center June 3 and 17, 9 - 11 a.m., and Sapulpa Indian Community Center June 3 and 17, 1 - 3 p.m. If you have any questions please call Janice Hanun at 732-7618.

please see **PROGRAMS...**, page 19

Division of Tribal Affairs outlines departmental functions

OKMULGEE — The Division of Tribal Affairs is a multi-faceted multi-service division of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation's Administrative leadership. Being an integral part of the day-to-day operation bears great responsibility and the managerial staff of DTA is comprised of individuals proficiently educated and trained in their respective departments. There are 5 departments involved in the makeup of Tribal Affairs.

Mr. Allen Harjo, Deputy Director, leads the team of Tribal Affairs and provides organizational expertise necessary to keep each department focused on its area of responsibility. This leadership creates greater efficiency of service to the Indian people and the citizens of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Katie Cates is Mr. Harjo's secretary.

The first department is Transportation Planning, managed by Ben Chaney. The department is part of the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program. IRR is a federally funded program of the Transportation Equity Act of the Twenty First Century (TEA21) that provides funding for road and bridge reconstruction in Indian Country. Transportation Planning is responsible for the determination through criteria based research of deficient roads and bridges within the jurisdictional boundary of the tribe and for prioritizing them for an annual Transportation Improvement Plan. This would be of optimum benefit to tribal citizens by providing greater access and more safe travel. Transportation Planning may be reached at (918) 732-7645

Planning this year includes the establishment of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority (MCNTA), providing mass transit for MCN citizens throughout the Tribal Communities and to areas of healthcare and other areas deemed important. The MCNTA will employ approximately eight employees.

The second department is IRR-Federal Roads, funded partially through the IRR program and Tribal funds. The program is managed by Jack Chaney P.E. and he is responsible for overseeing the reconstruction if the IRR planned roads as well as the oversight of the Force Account Construction Crew. The road construction oversight includes inspection of construction progress and financial control of construction costs. The Force Account crew is a training program funded by the BIA and provides

heavy equipment, road construction and basic survey training for Indian workers of the MCN. IRR-Federal Roads consists of approximately seven employees and can be reached at (918) 732-7811.

IRR-Federal Roads is responsible for providing engineering expertise for many tribal projects, including areas of major construction for the tribe and other tribal entities.

The third department is Tribal Construction, managed by Patrick Freeman, and is a Tribally funded program and is responsible for the oversight of all tribal construction projects and is responsible for establishment of working relationships with all contractors. Tribal Construction provides expertise in construction management and is involved in the initial planning of tribal construction projects and is responsible for the inspection for all project phases. Tribal Construction consists of 3 employees and can be reached at (918) 732-7975.

The fourth department, Tribal Driveways, is supervised by Bob Arrington and is Tribally funded also and was created to provide roadway services to individual Indian land owners within the boundary of the MCN. Tribal Driveways will reconstruct privately owned driveways for qualified individuals, Indian churches, ceremonial grounds, and cemeteries. Tribal Driveways also provides, upon request, opening of gravesites at Indian Cemeteries. There is an application form to be filled out with documents of ownership for the driveway service. Tribal Driveways can be reached at (918) 732-7651.

Realty Services, the last department, is managed by Sonya Lytch and is comprised of 13 employees and is the largest department of Tribal Affairs. Realty Services, like Tribal Affairs, is a multi-service department and provides services like probate packages for deceased individuals that involves trust land, easement and right of way determination, mortgage information assistance and processing for the sale of restricted Indian land, trust application and deed preperation, enviornmental inspection and assessment, agricultural and business leases, appraisal of restricted Indian property, oil and gas lease inspection and Title Plant services. Realty Services can be reached at (918) 732-7713.

Tribal members are encouraged to become familiar with Tribal Affairs and to take advantage of their services.

Last of the Original



"Papa would read the newspaper to us kids," said Berryhill. "One day he was telling us about a bad shipwreck. He told us about all the people that died." Berryhill explained that the catastrophe her father was describing to her was the sinking of the *Titanic*, the year was 1912.

by Gerald Wofford

OKMULGEE — Martha Berryhill has seen it all, and that's not an exaggeration in the least. On the July 12, 2003, she celebrated her one-hundred and third birthday. Berryhill acknowledged the special date with close friends and family. Those closest to her easily profess how special she is and how much she means to them, so does the entire Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

With the recent passing of California Fixico, Berryhill is one of the two only known living Original Allottees that is a member of the tribe. There are reports that there may be two more Muscogee (Creek) allottees still living, but that information has yet to be absolutely confirmed. Original Allottee is a term given to individuals who were alive at the time when the government was beginning to give allotted, or marked land, to American Indians that enrolled as

members of a Federally recognized tribe. The Dawes Commission from the time of 1893 to 1914 was the name of the program responsible for this. The plan of the distribution of real estate was to make the Indian more individual and not as communal as he once had been. According to the book, *The Dawes Commission* by Ken Carter, of the 300,000 American Indians that applied for enrollment, almost two thirds were rejected.

Berryhill was accepted, and sees the government attempt at land distribution as just a part of life. "Land allotment was nothing that really meant nothing to her", says daughter Ruby Mauk, who now lives and cares for her Mother.



Harrison Berryhill

Berryhill no longer owns her allotted land, which was sold off a long time ago, but the very active and deeply religious Creek lady smiles brightly when

she thinks about how things used to be.

"Papa would read the newspaper to us kids," said Berryhill. "One day he was telling us about a bad shipwreck. He told us about all the people that died."

Berryhill explained that the catastrophe her father was describing was the sinking of the *Titanic*, the year was 1912.

Berryhill also talks about the first World War and how it affected her family. The "war to end all wars" was fought from 1914 to 1918 and Berryhill remembers when her husband John was all prepared to be sent off to battle in the fields of Europe. But the

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) HISTORY

In the late 1800s the **Dawes Commission** began negotiating with the **Muscogee Nation** for the allotment of the national domain. In 1898, the United States Congress passed the Curtis Act which made the dismantling of the National governments of the Five Civilized Tribes and the allotment of collectively-held tribal domains inevitable. In 1890, the noted statesman **Chitto Harjo** helped lead organized opposition to the dissolution of **Muscogee** National government and allotment of collectively-held lands. In his efforts he epitomized the view of all **Muscogee** people that they possessed an inherent right to govern themselves. For individuals like Chitto Harjo it was unimaginable that the Nation could be dissolved by the action of a foreign government. This perception proved to be correct.

The end of the **Muscogee Nation** as envisioned by its architects within the United States Congress did not occur. In the early 20th century, the process of allotment of the National domain to individual citizens was completed. However, the perceived dismantling of the **Muscogee** government was never fully executed. The Nation maintained a Principal Chief throughout this stormy period.

armistice was signed and thousands of young men like John were immediately sent home. The war was over.

Berryhill's father, the Rev. Harrison Berryhill, was a Methodist preacher. He, as well Martha and the rest of the family, attended Tallahassee Church in the early 1900's. "We would have all-night services, everyone would come together. I was just a little girl then so sometimes I would fall asleep," laughs Berryhill. "There was a big pew in the back row and sometimes I would go to sleep there."

Berryhill never really knew her mother Betty. She passed away when Berryhill was only four years old. When her father was away preaching at other churches, Berryhill was often cared for by other members of the family, such as her Aunt Martha, who owned a restaurant in Okmulgee. "There was a man who went to our church back then, his name was Scott Gentry," recalls Berryhill. "He wasn't Indian, but he would take care of me when Papa was preaching. He was a nice man."

Berryhill fondly recalls the family loading up the horses and buggy for the trips to Church or to the store. She also remembers how much prestige and respect her father received by being a member of the clergy.

"When we would go into town (Okmulgee) the people knew Papa was a preacher," says Berryhill. "They would be real nice to him, especially in restaurants. Whenever we went in to sit down and they knew who he was they wouldn't let him pay. They would tell him you and your family can eat here anytime and you don't have to pay."

Berryhill laughs a little when she remembers going into restaurants, especially a Chinese restaurant that once was in Okmulgee. She couldn't remember the name of it, but recalls how eager the Chinese restaurant owners were to serve Papa. "Papa never felt comfortable about everyone offering him things like that," explains Berryhill. "He wouldn't go back to very many restaurants after that and he would tell us kids not too either because they knew we were his kids and would feed us free too. We would try to sneak back there, but papa wouldn't let us go," chuckles Berryhill.

Berryhill emphasizes how wonderful life was like in the city of Okmulgee in those days. "We would all go down and sit on the benches by the Council House. A lot of Indians would go down there and visit one another."

Berryhill's family not only ministered in word, but in service also. "We were the only ones who had a telephone, so people who lived nearby would ask

to use the phone," says Berryhill. "You had to crank it to use it."

When the family would entertain they would get out the old RCA Victorola, or in more modern electronic terminology, the record player. "We were the only ones who had a record player too," says Berryhill. "But papa made sure we only listened to Christian music on it." And just like the telephone, the musical device would only work by cranking it.

Another thing of the past that you won't find today that Berryhill remembers is the personal house calls made by medical doctors. "Our family doctor was Dr. Milroy," recalls Berryhill. "He would come out to the house and take care of us. He would also bring us some oranges, apples and bananas. He was real nice."

Often people who live to such a grand age are asked what is their secret to such a long and happy life. Berryhill doesn't try to keep any secrets of her long life. "The Lord has really blessed me, I can't begin to tell you how much!" proclaims Berryhill. Ruby also states that her Mother often stays up real late and then gets up real early.

At one time Berryhill even had a ministry where she prayed and read scriptures to nursing home patients. "She would go to all these nursing homes in the area and cook food and wash their clothes for them," explains Ruby. With her religious upbringing, Berryhill has made it a point to always get a lot of God's word through the passage of the Holy Bible and from preachers near and far.

"When I worked in Tulsa, Mama would come up there and stay with me to go to the Kenneth Hagin Campmeetings," says Ruby. "Just like a long time ago, we would stay all day until it was all over." The religious event is held each year and hosts people from all around the world.

Ruby and her Mother were featured in the Kenneth Hagin Campmeeting magazine. According to *The Word Of Faith Magazine* published in October 2000, Martha had been attending the camp meeting for the past nine years. During her interview Martha stated that she was saved in 1910 and she believed the camp meeting was a life-saver. "Many people who attended would just want to come up and talk to mama," said Ruby. "They wanted to know all about her. She got a lot of attention!"

It seems these days the last of the Original Allottees continues to garner a lot of attention. Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill and the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise are making sure Berryhill and her family are well taken care of. Home improvements are being made at her residence in Okmulgee. In a way it is the deepest gratitude of a grateful Nation, for this is truly one of the last of the original.

Other notes of congratulations have also been sent to Martha, especially for her 100th birthday celebration. Oklahoma Senator Frank Shurden, U.S. Senator Don Nickles, and former President Bill Clinton and First-Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also sent their acknowledgments.

"Historically, their parents were ones who came on the removal and these people got the allotments," says Second Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Alfred Berryhill when describing the Original Allottees. "They were young at that time and now they represent the old becoming the new. And she (Martha) is a part of that transitional stage. She speaks both English and Creek. She is a part of the old becoming the new."



Betty Berryhill



Pictured above were three living original allottees honored at a special ceremony held last last summer: Martha Berryhill; California Fixico; and Lucy Condren.
photo by Lucas Taylor



Martha and Ruby at camp meeting 2000.

Election Board

The following registered absentee voters need to contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board office at (918) 732-7684.

Acheson, Marilyn	Badgett, Alice Renee	Berryhill, Woodrow	Bruner, Randal Louis	Chandler, Linda	Cottrell, Cindy Lea	Dorman, Rachel	Farnsworth, Kathy
Acree, Dora Marie	Bailey, Betty Lou	Beshear, David Wayne	Bryden, Sherry	Chaney, Christopher	Couch, Jack Cody	Dorsey, Gary Neill	Feagan, Anna Faye
Adair, Harold Dean	Bailey, Martha Eloise	Best, James Ernest	Bucholz, Deborah	Chaney, Kevin Burke	Coulter, Kathy	Doss, Carol Jean	Featherston, Lee
Adams, Brian Howard	Bailey, Robin	Best, John Hogan	Buck, Kevin Edward	Chase, Tina Renee	Coursey, Dorless Jane	Doss, Douglas Stevens	Feliz, Richard Dale
Adams, Lauren Myrna	Baker, Donald Ray Jr.	Best, Martha Diane	Buckley, Bernice	Chase, Walton Cole	Cowan, Alice M.	Doss, Reginald Keith	Fields, James
Adams, Nancy Muriel	Baker, Robert Jr.	Bethel, Pearla Mae	Buckley, Billy Gene	Chastain, Michelle N.	Cowles, Agnes Lorene	Doss, Samsom Wayne	Fields, James Allen
Adams, Neal Victor	Baker, Ronald Butler	Bettis, Mildred Lee	Buckley, Harry Linnell	Checotah, Benjamin G.	Cowles, Jimmy	Doss, Trae Jame	Fields, Samuel
Adams, Paula Sue	Baldrige, Steven J.	Bevenue, Joseph Kent	Buckley, Jonas Billy	Checotah, Orvilon	Doyle, Annalis	Doyle, Annalis	File, Wanda Lou
Adams, Willie S. III	Bales, Jerry Alvin	Bible, Matthew C.	Buckmaster, Donnie II	Checotah, Roman Jr.	Doyle, Daniel	Doyle, Daniel	Finch, Jerry Allan
Adkins, Stella Paulette	Bandy, Wanda June	Bigler, Michael David	Buckner, Billy Gene	Checote, Doretta Lee	Doyle, Jeffrey	Doyle, Leo Donald	Fish, Cindy Lynn
Adolph, Gregory	Banks, Carol Elaine	Billhimer, Carolyn	Bucktrot, Alvin Lee Jr.	Checote, Johnnie Lee	Doyle, Leo Donald	Dozier, Junita	Fish, Eddie Robert Jr.
Adolph, Jeffery	Banks, Lori Lea	Billings, Robert Willie	Bucktrot, Anita Carol	Cheek, Darin Wesley	Drew, Earl E.	Drewe, Earl E.	Fish, Kendra Ann
Agent, Samantha	Banowetz, Margaret	Billy, Franklin	Buie, Ruth Ann	Cheek, Dawn Anne	Driscoll, Rosie Lee	Droos, Rosie Lee	Fish, Louis Melford Jr.
Aguilar, Rachel Marie	Barlow, Charles A. Jr.	Bingham, Tammy Lea	Builer, Leona	Childers, Daniel C.	Drotos, Jennifer Ann	Drotos, Jennifer Ann	Fish, Mitchell F. Jr.
Akins, Cynthia Marie	Barnett, Brandon E.	Bird, James Edward	Buller, Matthew Alen	Childers, Mark Steven	Drywater, Jason Lee	Drywater, Jason Lee	Fisher, Jonathon S.
Alexander, Debra Kay	Barnett, Charles B. Jr.	Birdcreek, Amos B.	Bumpass, Annie Mae	Childress, Lucy Mae	Dubose, Icy Ree	Dubose, Icy Ree	Fisher, Kenneth Sam
Alexander, George S.	Barnett, Christopher	Black, Carolyn Ruth	Burgess, Abe Jr.	Chisholm, Sam	Duncan, Donald Gene	Duncan, Donald Gene	Fisher, Lawrence H. Jr.
Alexander, James Alan	Barnett, David Ronald	Blackwell, Douglas A.	Burgess, Adeline Belle	Christiansen, Michael	Duncan, Ronald Dean	Duncan, Ronald Dean	Fisher, Lige Sam
Alexander, Lewis E.	Barnett, Jackson Lee	Blackwell, Janie Grace	Burgess, Linden Phelix	Christiansen, Patrick	Dunham, Fred Ray	Dunham, Fred Ray	Fisher, Wyonona Jean
Allen, Bluford Warren	Barnett, Paul Wayne	Blalock, Richard Allen	Burgess, Nathan Vern	Christy, Linda Marie	Dunham, Bessie Lee	Dunham, Bessie Lee	Fitch, Barbara Sue
Allen, Carl Ray	Barnett, Ronald Ray	Blankenship, Raymond	Burgess, Randal Yale	Chuckluck, Felicia	Dunn, Donna Jo	Dunn, Donna Jo	Fontaine, Lola Maye
Allen, Christina Renee	Barnett, Sandra Carole	Blankenship, Ricky W.	Burgess, Raymond	Clark, Bessie Adella	Dunn, Mark Eldon	Dunn, Mark Eldon	Fixico, Anthony Glen
Allen, Kenneth Edwin	Barratt, Virginia Sue	Blankenship, Donald	Burkhart, Lea Ana	Clark, Penny Joanne	Dunning, Betty Lou	Dunning, Betty Lou	Fixico, Elmer
Allen, Kenneth Eugene	Barratt, Rhett L.	Blankenship, Ricky W.	Burley, Lisa Carol	Clark, Roxanne	Dunson, Darly Gene	Dunson, Darly Gene	Fixico, Kepsy Joyce
Allen, Kristi Jo	Barron, Delorse Ann	Blakely, Mary Lu Ella	Burns, George Alvin Jr.	Clark, Sheril Ann	Dunson, David Wayne	Dunson, David Wayne	Fixico, Lenah
Allen, Shereen Lanier	Bartness, Dione	Block, Margaret C.	Burris, Curtis William	Clark, Tamra Sue	Dunson, Gary	Dunson, Gary	Fixico, Quinton Lee
Allison, Robert Ray	Barton, Andrew Robin	Bodwell, Teresa Gayle	Burnson, Connie	Clarke, Lisa Dawn	Dunson, Marty Craig	Dunson, Marty Craig	Fixico, Ronald Dean
Anderson, Kathryn	Barton, Brenda Carol	Boersler, Darrell Lee	Burnett, James Leon	Clary, Ruth Ellen	Durniak, Sharon Marie	Durniak, Sharon Marie	Fixico, Wenona
Anderson, Michael	Barton, Rosella B.	Boneau, Kathryn Jean	Burnett, James Leon	Clayton, Kevin Elmer	Durossette, Gary R.	Durossette, Gary R.	Floyd, Jerry Don
Anderson, Robert C.	Baughn, Bruce Gene	Booth, Larry Joe	Burton, James Owen	Clayton, Ronald Jay	Durossette, Robert D.	Durossette, Robert D.	Floyd, Phillip David
Anderson, Robin Lee	Baughn, Juanita Janett	Booth, Sara Jane	Bush, Marilyn	Cleary, Regina	Durossette, Rodney	Durossette, Rodney	Foley, Brian Lee
Anderson, Solomon K.	Bear, Dale Lucas	Border, Peggy Pauline	Bushouse, Pamela Jean	Clements, Lois	Duvall, Matthew	Duvall, Matthew	Foley, Mark Anthony
Anderson, Steven	Bear, David	Bouchie, Kristy Lynn	Bushyhead, Kathleen	Clemmer, Elizabeth J.	Eads, Arron Phillip	Eads, Arron Phillip	Ford, Lillian Pearl
Anderson, Zachariah J.	Bear, Jamison Oliver	Boujaoude, Margaret	Butler, Randall Gene	Clifton, Debra Kay	Eads, Ira Vernon	Eads, Ira Vernon	Ford, Nina Mae
Anglen, Paul Gene	Bear, Lijah Ray	Bowen, Leslie Dyan	Byrd, Belinda Lalene	Clifton, Dianna Lynn	Eads, Melba Ann	Eads, Melba Ann	Foreman, Konya Sue
Anglin, Marlene Joyce	Bear, Mamie	Boyd, Carla Denise	Byrd, Gnetta Frances	Cline, Shirley Ann	Eakes, Vincent Ray	Eakes, Vincent Ray	Forester, Robert Scott
Ansiel, Billy Joe	Beaty, Rozan	Boyle, Barbara	Byrd, Wanda	Clinton, Gary Glen	Earnest, Tammy Kee	Earnest, Tammy Kee	Foster, Billie Jean
Ansiel, Billy Joe Jr.	Beaver, Ben Thomas	Bradford, Lillie	Cable, Jo Ann	Cloud, Clinton Lew	Easley, Evelyn Ann	Easley, Evelyn Ann	Foster, Brian Scott
Ansiel, Charles Albert	Beaver, Edgar Ervin	Bradshaw, Valerie Ann	Cadion, Jacqueline	Cloud, Rodney Eugene	Eason, Cynthia Ann	Eason, Cynthia Ann	Foster, Charles Arthur
Ansiel, Earnest Wayne	Beaver, Jody Neeha	Bradwell, Kristie Ann	Caesar, Alphonso	Coachman, Agnes	Eastepp, Ina Marie	Eastepp, Ina Marie	Foster, David Ray
Ansiel, Floyd C.	Beaver, Lisa Dawn	Brady, Mary Allen	Cain, Tracia Annette	Coachman, Brenda Sue	Eastepp, Tommy Lee	Eastepp, Tommy Lee	Foster, Dawn Ranee
Anspaw, Carrie Willis	Beaver, Robin Leann	Brandon, Noel W. Jr.	Caldwell, Jerra Gay	Coachman, Charles M.	Ebahotubbi, Michelle	Ebahotubbi, Michelle	Foster, Deanne Marie
Apple, Mildred Louise	Beaver, Shelton Oliver	Brasuell, Perry Clay	Calvert, Michael Todd	Coachman, David	Foster, John Edward	Foster, John Edward	Foy, Travis Elroy
Applegate, Pamela	Bell, Mary Ann	Brasuell, Stephen Jed	Cameron, Mamie	Coachman, James P.	Edwards, Elizabeth P.	Edwards, Elizabeth P.	Frailey, Marcus Gene
Aquino, Domingo	Bellamy, Robert	Brasuell, Wallace Wade	Camp, Bonita Jane	Coachman, Joseph	Edwards, Kenneth Lee	Edwards, Kenneth Lee	Fraizer, Constance G.
Aquino, Ricardo M. Jr.	Bernore, Pamela Gay	Bratcher, Georgialene	Campbell, Clay Ian	Cobb, Youvon Linell	Edwards, Marion Lee	Edwards, Marion Lee	Franchek, Cynthia
Arbuckle, Carol Ann	Benedict, Jessica Ellen	Bratcher, Jerri Lynn	Campbell, Ian M.	Cochran, Brenda Kay	Eldridge, Sherry Elaine	Eldridge, Sherry Elaine	Franklin, Doby Sean
Archer, Bryon Lee	Benn, Samantha June	Bredesen, Stephanie L.	Canard, Curtis Lee	Cockrum, Kathleen L.	Elliott, Joseph Boyd	Elliott, Joseph Boyd	Frazar, Debra Kaye
Archer, Jerry Dale	Bennefield, Harold P.	Breshears, Trenton	Canard, Roger Vernon	Cody, Jenny Lee	Elliott, Sallye E.	Elliott, Sallye E.	Fream, Beecher Lewis
Archer, Leroy Webster	Bennett, Myrtle Mae	Brewer, Linda Susan	Capps, Vera Alene	Coffman, Karen Faye	Ellis, Ramona Lee	Ellis, Ramona Lee	Fream, Edward Lewis
Archer, Melissa Jane	Bennett, Sammy Lynn	Brewington, Patricia A.	Carden, Monte Deer	Coker, Katrina Marie	Ellis, Vonda Kay	Ellis, Vonda Kay	Fream, Kim Kimbrow
Archer, Randall Mark	Benson, Billie Dennis	Brewster, Larry	Carey, John	Coker, Thomas E. Jr.	Ellsworth, Kristin G.	Ellsworth, Kristin G.	Fream, Wendy La'Nell
Arnett, Tenna Elaine	Benson, Stephen Kyle	Bridges, Jordan Wade	Carman, Lonnie C. Sr.	Colbert, Bruce	Elston, Faith E.	Elston, Faith E.	Freeman, Jack
Arpoika, Bobby Islo	Benton, Lillian Y.	Bright, Tracy Lynn	Carpenter, Dana W.	Cole, James Jr.	Emery, Byron	Emery, Byron	Freeman, Jack L. II
Arzola, Sherri Lynn	Berg, Cindy	Briscoe, Bobbin J.	Carpenter, Jeanie Ann	Cole, Joyce Marie	Emrich, Debrah Lynn	Emrich, Debrah Lynn	Freeman, Leola
Asbury, Charles	Berry, David Walker	Britt, Sherri Lane	Carpenter, Michael A.	Cole, Theresa Liegh	England, Samuel C.	England, Samuel C.	Freeman, Ronald Gene
Asbury, Lillian Jo	Berryhill, Aaron Dale	Brock Terri Lynn	Carpenter, Robert D.	Coleman, Steve M.	England, James Albert	England, James Albert	Freeman, Ronald Scott
Ashley, Russell Lavin	Berryhill, Adrian Lee	Brown, Blanchard W.	Carr, Lenayle Dee	Combs, Beulah	English, Terry Dean	English, Terry Dean	Freeman, Vernon B.
Ashmore, Yvette M.	Berryhill, Billy Earl	Brown, Carolyn June	Carroll, Stacie Paulette	Combs, Harold Barton	Ennis, Patricia Ellen	Ennis, Patricia Ellen	French, Alix Derald
Atkins, William N. Jr.	Berryhill, Brett Wayne	Brown, Martha R.	Carter, Delores	Combs, Marcus Lewis	Epperley, Gary	Epperley, Gary	French, Gara Lynn
Atkins-Clerc, Ambra	Berryhill, Charles R.	Brown, Minnie Lucille	Carter, Eleanor	Combs, Melvin Lewis	Epperley, Linda Ann	Epperley, Linda Ann	Froggle, Loy Rue
Aubrey, Herbert F.	Berryhill, Donald Lee	Brown, Pennie	Carter, Mable Inogene	Combs, Robert	Epperson, Gary	Epperson, Gary	Fruitt, Bernadette Sue
Audrain, Gertrude	Berryhill, Emma	Brown, Robert Scott	Carter, Michelle Renee	Condrey, Maude E.	Erlar, Mary Elalee	Erlar, Mary Elalee	Frye, Ed Porter II
Ault, Cheri Renee	Berryhill, Jerry	Brown, Sarah Ann	Carter, William Brian	Conley, Oscar Lee	Escoe, Herschel	Escoe, Herschel	Frye, Fannie
Ault, Richard Brian	Berryhill, Larry Mose	Brown, Sherri Lou	Case, Anthony	Conrad, Millicent W.	Escoe, Leonard Hugh	Escoe, Leonard Hugh	Frye, Johnny
Austin, Danielle Kay	Berryhill, Michael	Brownfield, Kelli	Case, Maurice Wayne	Conrfield, Thelma M.	Eshleman, Tracy Lee	Eshleman, Tracy Lee	Frye, Marion
Austin, Susan Lynette	Berryhill, Richard	Brownfield, Oscar J.	Casey, Leonard Wayne	Cook, Jacqueline	Esle, Kathryn Hope	Esle, Kathryn Hope	Fulwider, David Van
Avants, Helen Belle	Berryhill, Shirley Ann	Broyles, Evelyn	Casey, Pat Rockne	Cook, Scot David D.	Eubanks, Sammy Lee	Eubanks, Sammy Lee	Funchess, Edward
Back, Susan Katherine	Berryhill, Walter S.	Bruce, Lucas Douglas	Casey, Patricia Ann	Cooke, Robert Dwight	Factor, Michael	Factor, Michael	Furr, Claudette Sue
		Bruner, Christopher G.	Castle, Betty Jean	Coon, Arthur Jr.	Factor, Patrick Ryan	Factor, Patrick Ryan	Gable, James Curtis Jr.
		Bruner, Douglas	Castro, La. J.	Cooper, Cranford W.	Factor, Peggy Ann	Factor, Peggy Ann	Gable, Mattie Lousie
		Bruner, Jacob Mitchell	Catland, Barbara Jean	Cooper, Lyndel Lin	Factor, Stephen Walter	Factor, Stephen Walter	Gable, Susie Ann
		Bruner, Jannie	Caudill, Peter Ian	Cooper, Mary Nancy	Falconer, Barbara Ann	Falconer, Barbara Ann	Gallagher, Darla Jean
		Bruner, John Daniel	Caywood, Melissa	Coots, Mark Anthony	Faris, Jaime Marie	Faris, Jaime Marie	Gallagher, David Glenn
		Bruner, Lady Beatrice	Chalakee, Theron	Cottrell, Barbara Viola			
			Chalakee, Tommy L.				

January District Court filings

April District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Keith Lyons vs. MCN Bingo Hall & Casino
- Security Finance vs. Patricia Lowe
- Security Finance vs. Walter Jones
- Continental Credit vs. Virginia Jackson
- Sarah Schooley vs. Robert Miller
- Armstrong Bank vs. Janice Doke
- MCN vs. Creek Nation Housing Authority
- Cynthia Tiger vs. Vanis Dunn
- Royal Finance vs. Teresa Jennings
- Royal Finance vs. Annette Washington
- Creditors Recovery Corp. vs. Rebecca Seaton

Marriage:

- William Wind vs. Emma Bruner

Protective Orders:

- Johna Morris vs. Charles Morris

Divorce:

- Tywana Fay Wiley-Valk vs. Gordon LeeRoy Valk
- Wilbert Barnett vs. Sherri Barnett
- Katrena Horton vs. Mack Horton
- Gina Chairez vs. Luis Chairez
- Ronald Bryant vs. Penelope Newman-Bryant
- Joy Lynn Barton vs. Cecil Christopher Barton
- Wallace Gene Cook Jr. vs. Heather Marie Cook

Family Domestic:

- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Wahwastoas Wahwassuck vs. Herbert Reyes
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Jonita Rowe vs. Victor Anderson Jr.
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Christina Jarvis vs. Bodie Roberts
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Erica Bennett vs. Joshua Bennett

Criminal-felony:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Billy Kolakowski
- count 1: Possession of Illegal Drugs
- count 2: Possession of Illegal Drugs
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Andrew Dennison
- count 1: Public Intoxication
- count 2: Possession of Illegal Drugs
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Tammy Harjo
- count 1: Aggravated Battery

Traffic:

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Amber Perkins
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Amber Perkins
- count 1: Driving with out Required Registration
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rachel Miller
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Kenny Johnson
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Roscoe Burrows
- count 1: Driving with out required registration
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Raymond Porter

- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Chad Blankenship
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Charles Littlejohn
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Charles Kimberling
- count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Lance Courtwright
- count 1: Expired Tag
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Doniese Murphy
- count 1: No Child Restraint

Letters

continued from page 2

there will not be any provision whereby a citizen of the Muscogee Nation can institute a suit in tribal court against the Muscogee Nation if their civil rights have been violated.

In closing, I want to reiterate that it is time for a change. It is time for the Muscogee Nation to alter its way of schooling and afford protections to each and every citizen of the Muscogee Nation that is afforded them as a citizen of the State of Oklahoma and as a citizen of the United States. Afford a forum that a citizen of the Muscogee Nation can go to, to address their grievances. Otherwise, we will not be any better off than a one party political structure, with emphasis on the requirements of the state rather than on individual liberties. The Muscogee Nation has a moral obligation to see that every avenue is available for its citizens to address any wrong that may have occurred to them via governmental intrusion.

Richard E. "Rick" Wilde, Tulsa

Citizen expresses opinion about Constitution

Editor:

This letter is a follow-up letter to previous editorials regarding civil rights within the Muscogee Nation. I am not going to restate my previous stance on this issue. However, I would repeat that each and every citizen of Muscogee Nation is born with this right.

The point I am going to make with this editorial is this: Why amend the Muscogee Nation Constitution to clarify civil rights, when there is no judicial avenue to monetarily punish a tribal official for such a violation?

I would like to commend our United States Congress for enacting the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (ICRA). This law recognized that Indian tribes are not subject to the Bill of Rights and other constitutional guarantees. This legislation imposed on tribes requirements following many of the constitutional restraints on states and the federal government. However, ICRA does not waive the sovereign immunity status of tribe, ICRA also did not create a private cause of action cognizable in federal court whereby a tribal citizen may sue a tribal government for a possible violation of his or her civil rights.

I am in agreement that the present language in the Muscogee Nation's Constitution is way past due for clarification regarding civil rights. I would also like

to take this time to commend the National Council for taking on this endeavor to amend the present day constitution. However, the process of amending the present day Muscogee Constitution is going to take time, how much time is anybody's guess. The short solution to this would be for the Muscogee National Council to enact a law that waives sovereign immunity protection in reference to a violation of a Muscogee citizens civil rights. Give the Muscogee citizens an avenue to address a wrong that has possibly been committed by the Nation. Set forth some sort of monetary punishment against a tribal official for violating a Muscogee citizen's civil rights. I know that this may sound unreasonable, and I do not wish to see our sovereignty protection go by the wayside, but it sets forth fairness to the people of the Muscogee Nation.

My reasoning for requesting the National Council to enact such a law is one of ethics. Understand that each state has a governmental tort claim law that waives the sovereign immunity protection afforded to that state on specific issues. It also puts a cap on the amount a person can obtain from the state if it is found that a governmental entity has violated an individual's rights. Also, the federal government has a tort law that waives its immunity from suit. It also puts a cap on the amount a person can collect if it is found that the federal government has violated an individual's right. Why not the Muscogee Nation?

As stated earlier, I am not asking the National Council to write a law that waives the Muscogee Nation's sovereign immunity status in its entirety. That is far fetched and I would be way out of line to make such a request. What I am asking is that the National Council enact a law that will waive the Muscogee Nation's immunity from suit in reference to ANY governmental violation of a Muscogee citizens civil rights. I am asking the National Council to step up to the plate and reaffirm that the Muscogee Nation is fair in all matters relating to our people. Do what is right. *Mvto.*
Richard E. "Rick" Wilde, Tulsa

Woman voices concern for day care providers

Editor:

As a 'previous' Day Care Provider in the city of Okmulgee, I have come to a certain point to where it is time to defend myself since no one else will. My day care was officially closed today (4/21/04) by my choice and not by anyone working at DHS. I had one parent complaining, telling DHS & others that I did not feed her child. Not only did I feed her child but I also fed neighborhood children that were not in day care. This same parent called her sister's job and had her sister under investigation, telling her sister's supervisor that she was an unfit mother and smoked illegal drugs in front of her children.

One parent called DHS and said I was sleeping and watching porno flicks with the kids. How can you be asleep and watch a porno flick? This same par

GENERAL FUND:	BUDGETS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	BALANCE
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	261,208.00	0.00	0.00	261,208.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TREASURY	3,231.00	0.00	0.00	3,231.00
ANGEL TREE	2,333.00	0.00	1,066.00	1,267.00
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	34,903.00	34,903.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,483,480.00	24,028.00	706,324.00	753,128.00
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	565,420.00	37,946.00	292,482.00	234,992.00
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	2,474,609.00	49,524.00	1,123,560.00	1,301,525.00
CONSUMER LOANS	0.00	0.00	175.00	(175.00)
CREEK NATION BINGO	15,165,643.00	1,548,644.00	5,866,664.00	7,750,335.00
CN PERMANENT FUND	693,978.00	18,954.00	375,359.00	299,665.00
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	0.00	0.00	34,563.00	(34,563.00)
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	3,413.00	365.00	500.00	2,548.00
CODIFICATION	120,000.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00
4-H CLUB	71,601.00	344.00	21,150.00	50,107.00
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
READING IS FUNDAMENTAL	3,000.00	0.00	2,998.00	2.00
HENSSLER ASSET MGMT	0.00	0.00	27,352.00	(27,352.00)
MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	151,907.00	9,457.00	143,883.00	(1,433.00)
FIRST CAPITAL MGMT PERM FUND	0.00	0.00	30,737.00	(30,737.00)
TRIBAL BUDGET	72,042.00	0.00	7,500.00	64,542.00
MCN FLAGS & ETC	2,900.00	0.00	1,891.00	1,009.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MOTOR VEHICLE	1,070,166.00	46,497.00	551,033.00	472,636.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	22,179,839.00	1,770,662.00	9,307,237.00	11,101,940.00
DEPT OF LABOR:				
WIA-TITLE I '02	22,611.00	0.00	3,641.00	18,970.00
WIA-TITLE I '03	509,309.00	4,560.00	325,428.00	179,321.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '03	107,986.00	2,967.00	72,751.00	32,268.00
WELFARE TO WORK '99	37.00	0.00	37.00	0.00
TOTAL DEPT OF LABOR	639,943.00	7,527.00	401,857.00	230,559.00
HOUSING & URBAN DEV:				
HUD-NAHASDA '00	3,798,836.00	421,007.00	1,714,201.00	1,663,628.00
HUD-SPAULPA CLINIC	25,728.00	12,650.00	13,078.00	0.00
HUD-ROSS '01	102,593.00	0.00	12,945.00	89,648.00
HUD-NAHASDA '01	10,346,562.00	0.00	2,046,073.00	8,300,489.00
HUD-DRUG ELIMINATION	118,220.00	0.00	103,155.00	15,065.00
HUD-FOOD DIST. BLDG	190,049.00	0.00	179,249.00	10,800.00
HUD-NAHASDA '02	17,174,584.00	12,091.00	2,869,201.00	14,293,292.00
HUD-NAHASDA '03	17,353,988.00	0.00	0.00	17,353,988.00
HUD-NAHASDA '99	491,526.00	0.00	282,097.00	209,429.00
TOTAL HUD:	49,602,086.00	445,748.00	7,219,999.00	41,936,339.00
DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVC:				
FAMILY PRESERVATION '02	0.00	0.00	(198.00)	198.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '02	176,617.00	2,721.00	95,901.00	77,995.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '02	317,018.00	4,168.00	208,477.00	104,373.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '02	29,203.00	0.00	29,203.00	0.00
LIHEAP '03	2,096.00	0.00	2,096.00	0.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '03	173,724.00	2,968.00	115,902.00	54,854.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '03	1,008,115.00	8,616.00	446,518.00	552,981.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '03	1,298,075.00	20,641.00	764,973.00	512,461.00
HEAD START '03	467,189.00	0.00	437,641.00	29,548.00
TITLE IV-B '03	223,693.00	6,972.00	109,622.00	107,099.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '03	244,443.00	27,979.00	82,402.00	134,062.00
LIHEAP '04	127,005.00	1,687.00	44,312.00	81,006.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '04	226,320.00	0.00	0.00	226,320.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '04	1,442,896.00	10,070.00	14,908.00	1,417,918.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '04	2,492,702.00	16,814.00	59,873.00	2,416,015.00
TITLE IV-B '04	242,984.00	0.00	0.00	242,984.00
HEADSTART '04	0.00	22,208.00	614,223.00	(636,431.00)
TOTAL DHS	8,472,080.00	124,844.00	3,025,853.00	5,321,383.00
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE:				
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '04	414,000.00	1,372.00	182,552.00	230,076.00
TOTAL USDA	414,000.00	1,372.00	182,552.00	230,076.00
PROGRAM INCOME:				
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	28,050.00	2,708.00	7,450.00	17,892.00
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	757,130.00	5,188.00	147,285.00	604,657.00
USDA HEADSTART REIMBURSE	76,617.00	26,800.00	49,815.00	2.00
EUFAULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	34,128.00	11,281.00	8,793.00	14,054.00
ELECTION BOARD PROG INC	18,560.00	0.00	6,867.00	11,693.00

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending March 31, 2004 Prepared by
the office of the controller

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending March 31, 2004 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditure, and balance for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending March 31, 2004. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grants or contracts, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending March 31, 2004.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved in the comprehensive annual budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the year.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **balance** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of March 31, 2004.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.

COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	4,695.00	50.00	1,584.00	3,061.00
GAMING PROGRAM INCOME	58,327.00	4,391.00	21,185.00	32,751.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD PROG INC	10,424.00	0.00	3,430.00	6,994.00
LIGHTHORSE PROGRAM INCOME	0.00	0.00	(30.00)	30.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROG. INC.	5,900.00	1,165.00	2,403.00	2,332.00
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME	993,831.00	51,583.00	248,782.00	693,466.00
DEPT OF INTERIOR:				
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	7,866,053.00	1,253,302.00	2,988,189.00	3,624,562.00
DOI-ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP	7,576.00	0.00	0.00	7,576.00
EUFAULA DORM '00	126,721.00	0.00	91,655.00	35,066.00
EUFAULA DORM '01	168,882.00	0.00	85,627.00	83,255.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV '01	25,520.00	0.00	25,520.00	0.00
LAMAR ROAD	220.00	0.00	187.00	33.00
KELLYVILLE ROAD	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
LITTLE CUSSETH CHURCH RD	76,910.00	0.00	10,471.00	66,439.00
OKEMAH SCHOOL ROAD	57,873.00	20,066.00	5,947.00	31,860.00
THEWARLE CHURCH ROAD	109,126.00	37,078.00	42,304.00	29,744.00
PORTER ROAD	117,660.00	100,000.00	4,338.00	13,322.00
OLD BIXBY ROAD	44,441.00	0.00	5,751.00	38,690.00
SALEM ROAD	91,718.00	2,451.00	11,361.00	77,906.00
SKELLY/HASKELL	601,548.00	23,387.00	577,613.00	548.00
METHODIST CHURCH ROAD	2,621.00	0.00	0.00	2,621.00
HECTORVILLE ROAD	1,283,253.00	125,000.00	4,103.00	1,154,150.00
SUMMIT SOUTH ROAD	194,153.00	192,277.00	904.00	972.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '02	11,585.00	2,890.00	8,070.00	625.00
EUFAULA DORM '02	665,518.00	23,453.00	321,305.00	320,760.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '03	9,500.00	1,431.00	3,228.00	4,841.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '03	435,487.00	20,823.00	342,315.00	72,349.00
EUFAULA DORM '03	1,314,343.00	77,728.00	175,780.00	1,060,835.00
OAKDALE SCHOOL BLDG	665.00	0.00	655.00	10.00
MCINTOSH FENCING	577.00	0.00	0.00	577.00
CALVIN NORTH ROAD	1,729,221.00	1,467,597.00	250,732.00	10,892.00
STIDHAM ROAD	443,500.00	31,589.00	411,911.00	0.00
ARBEKA ROAD	1,595,312.00	1,537,824.00	45,449.00	12,039.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '04	878,313.00	1,494.00	75,047.00	801,772.00
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	2,996,619.00	211,475.00	195,124.00	2,590,020.00
EUFAULA DORM '99	25,184.00	0.00	0.00	25,184.00
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	41,404.00	0.00	1,889.00	39,515.00
TOTAL DEPT OF INTERIOR	20,926,503.00	5,129,865.00	5,685,475.00	10,111,163.00
DEPT OF JUSTICE:				
VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE	49,062.00	0.00	15,045.00	34,017.00
DRUG COURT	45,862.00	49.00	32,407.00	13,406.00
GAP	110,000.00	0.00	3,289.00	106,711.00
TRIBAL RESOURCES COP	87,239.00	0.00	72,552.00	14,687.00
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	85,513.00	1,315.00	18,506.00	65,692.00
TOTAL DEPT OF JUSTICE	377,676.00	1,364.00	141,799.00	234,513.00
ENTERPRISE FUND:				
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	171,600.00	1,279.00	174,194.00	(3,873.00)
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	1,603,400.00	15.00	860,603.00	742,782.00
IHS OFFICE BUILDING	22,318.00	0.00	2,185.00	20,133.00
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROG.	9,483.00	0.00	290.00	9,193.00
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	276,289.00	0.00	145,810.00	130,479.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND	2,083,090.00	1,294.00	1,183,082.00	898,714.00
TRUST & AGENCY FUND:				
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C.N. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	6,120.00	(6,120.00)
TOTAL TRUST & AGENCY FUND	0.00	0.00	6,120.00	(6,120.00)
INTERNAL SERVICE:				
ROAD FORCE ACCOUNT	812,324.00	58,643.00	224,488.00	529,193.00
TRIBAL- REAL PROP & FAC.	1,422,400.00	45,172.00	725,309.00	651,919.00
TRIBAL- PROPERTY & SUPPLY	89,910.00	2,585.00	102,961.00	(15,636.00)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	19,033.00	1,661.00	16,439.00	933.00
SELF-INSURED HLTH FUND	0.00	0.00	1,603,730.00	(1,603,730.00)
TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE	2,343,667.00	108,061.00	2,672,927.00	(437,321.00)
SCHOLARSHIPS:				
C.N. FOUND. SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	580.00	(580.00)
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	0.00	580.00	(580.00)
TOTALS	108,032,715.00	7,642,320.00	30,076,263.00	70,314,132.00



THURSDAY Highlights June 3

Pageant

The Miss and Junior Miss Mvskoke Creek Nation Scholarship Pageant will be held June 3 at 7 p.m. in the Okmulgee High School Auditorium.

Contestants for the Miss Mvskoke pageant will be judged in the areas of: poise; personality; dress; talent; speech; and impromptu questions.

The winner will receive \$2,500, a trophy, and a crown. The runner up will receive \$500 and a plaque.



Contestants for the Junior Miss pageant will be judged in the areas of: poise; personality; dress; a two minute speech; impromptu question and essay.

The winner will receive \$500, a trophy and a crown. The runner up will receive \$125 and a plaque.

The deadline date for applications has passed, therefore, no additional entries will be accepted. For more information, contact Virginia Thomas at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM at 1-800-482-1979 or Alice Coe at (918) 732-7839.

SATURDAY Highlights June 5

Pageant

At 10 a.m. June 5 the Senior Ms. and Little Miss Mvskoke Creek Nation pageant will be held in the Okmulgee High School Auditorium.

Contestants for the Senior Ms. pageant will be judged in the areas of: poise; personality; dress; talent;

and an oral cultural presentation.

The winner will receive \$500, a trophy and a crown. The runner-up will receive \$125 and a plaque.

Contestants for the Little Miss Division I, II and III pageant will be judged in the areas of: poise; personality; dress; and age appropriate questions.

In each division the winner will receive \$125, a trophy, and a crown. In each division the runner-up will receive a \$25 and a plaque.

The deadline date for applications has passed, therefore, no additional entries will be accepted. For more information, contact Virginia Thomas at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM at 1-800-482-1979 or Alice Coe at 918-732-7839.

THURSDAY Highlights June 17

Stompdance Exhibition

The Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground will be hosting a Stomp Dance exhibition to kick the festival off. Fellowship together from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with the dancing to follow. The stompdance will be taking place at the Claude Cox OmniPlex. Everyone is invited.

For more information please contact David Proctor at 756-8504.



FRIDAY Highlights June 18

Junior Olympics

The Junior Olympics will begin at 8:30 a.m., Fri-

day June 18 at Harmon Stadium.

The Olympics offer Indian youth ages six to 15 the opportunity to compete in track events. The events for ages 6 - 7 are a 30 meter dash, 50 meter dash, 400 meter relay, and softball throw. For ages 8 - 9 there is a 50 meter dash, 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter relay, and a softball throw. For ages 10 - 11 there is a 50 meter dash, 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter relay, and a hoop shoot. For ages 12 - 13 there is a 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash, 400 meter relay, hoop shoot, and a long jump. For ages 14 - 15 there is a 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash, 400 meter relay, 1 mile run, hoop shoot, and long jump.

The deadline for registration is May 21. Volunteers are needed for this event. For more information contact Anthony Harjo at (918) 732-7869.

3 on 3 Basketball

There will be a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament starting Friday June 18. Participants must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe and provide a CDIB or enrollment card. Deadline to sign up will be June 7, with the brackets being drawn June 14.

First through third place receives a team trophy and T-shirts. The MVP will receive a pullover. There are four age divisions: 8 - 11; 12 - 14; 15 - 18; and 19 and up.

For more information or an entry form please contact Tamara Berryhill or Celesta Johnson at (918) 623-1424.



Men and Women's Fast Pitch Tournament

The Men's and Women's Fast Pitch Tournament will begin Friday, June 18 and run through Sunday, June 20 at the Claude Cox Omniplex.

The Champions from last year were the Fus-cates (Women) and Old School (Men). Missy Fox and Robbie Harry was last year's MVP's.

A total of 40 teams, 24 men and 16 women, will battle through a double elimination format. The deadline for the tournament is June 4.

For more information, contact Ruby Booker at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 7927.

Gospel Singing

A Gospel singing is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the OSU Extension Building at the Okmulgee County Fair Grounds.

Three songs will be allowed per group or soloist (variable by number of people registering), a key board, cd/tape player, drum set, and five microphones will be available. Please provide your own guitar amplifier.

Deadline is June 4. Performers will be notified of performance times when registered. Food will be served

and after 9 p.m. Also, a concession will be available.

Come enjoy an evening of gospel praise and worship and make music with holy spirit filled singers and music.

For more information or to register please contact Geebon Gouge at (918) 732-7711.

31st Annual All Indian Rodeo

There will be an All Indian Sanctioned Rodeo June 18 and 19, starting at 8 pm. Junior events include barrels, bull riding, and muton busting. Senior events include calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding, barrel racing, bare back and saddle bronc riding. Also there will be a team roping. Prizes for the junior events is \$100 added nightly, senior events \$500 added nightly, and for the team roping \$1,000 added nightly.



Principal Chief Ellis expects this to be the best All Indian Rodeo the Nation has had in several years. For more information please contact Bob Arrington at 732-7650.

Entertainment

The concerts are scheduled to begin on Friday, June 18 at 6:00 with the following performers: Bad Water, Don White; Brain Parton; and the Nashville Rebels. Headlining Friday is Highway 101.



Saturday's performers will be: Medicine Pony; Red Rhythm Band; Uptown Horns; Scott Ellison; Jimmy "Junior" Markham and Chris Zalez. Headlining Saturday is T. Graham Brown.

Principal Chief Ellis is scheduled to speak at 7:00 p.m. For more information please contact Ruth Bible at (918) 732-7640.

Co-ed Slow Pitch

Friday, June 18 the co-ed slow pitch softball tournament begins. All participants must be from a federally recognized tribe. Prizes will be awarded for the top four teams and balls will be provided.

For further information please contact Victor Bear at 732-7679.

SATURDAY Highlights June 19

Council House Art

Saturday June 19 adults can attend a juried traditional art competition, master artist show and sale, and Dawes Commission Cards Symposium, while their chil-

dren can act as a rabbit or turtle in an interactive storytelling workshop, learn Pow Wow and Stomp dances, play a game of stickball, or make a clay pot, cane basket, or beaded bracelet or necklace to take home.

For further information please contact the Creek Council House Museum at (918) 756-2324.

Honoring the Allottees

The theme of the Festival is *Honoring Our Original Allottees*.

A ceremony and reception in honor of the remaining allottees will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 19 at Green Country Vo-Tech, on Loop 56 and Kennedy Drive.

For more information please contact Donna Martin at (918) 732-7963.



"Honoring Our Original Allottees" Art Competition Winner



Chandra Leming's art entry placed first in this year's art competition. Leming is a senior at Jenks High School. INTERPRETATION OF ARTWORK: The sun and silhouette represents the past; our original allottees. The man

is depicted with his thoughts in the background as if telling us a story of forgotten days. Leming's artwork will be the official logo for this year's 30th Annual Creek Nation Festival.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY JUNE 3

• Jr. & Miss Mvskoke Pageants • Okmulgee High School Auditorium • Virginia Thomas • 7 pm.

SATURDAY JUNE 5

• Sr. Misses & Little Miss Mvskoke Pageants • Okmulgee High School Gym • Virginia Thomas • 10 am.

THURSDAY JUNE 17

Pageant Reception • Creek Council House • Virginia Thomas • 6 pm.

Stompdance • Omniplex • David Proctor • 7:30 pm.

FRIDAY JUNE 18

• Youth Olympics • Harmon Stadium • Anthony Harjo • 8 am

• Golf Tournament • Cobblestone Course, Muskogee • Perry Anderson, Bert Robinson, and Bret Hayes • 1 pm.

• Fast-Pitch Softball • Omniplex • Ruby Booker • 6 pm.

• CO-ED Slow-Pitch Softball • Okmulgee City Parks • Victor Bear • 6 pm

• Concerts • Omniplex • Ruth Bible • 6 pm

• Creek Hymn Singing • Okmulgee Indian Community Center • Mike Coon • 7 pm.

• Gospel Singing • OSU Extension Center • Thompson Gouge • 7 pm.

• All-Indian Rodeo • Omniplex • Bob Arrington • 8 pm.

• 3 on 3 Basketball Youth • Omniplex • Tamara Berryhill, Celesta Johnson, John Buckley • TBA

SATURDAY JUNE 19

• Golf Tournament • Cobblestone Course, Muskogee • Select your own Tee time

• CO-ED Slow-Pitch Softball • Okmulgee City Parks • Time dependant on number of teams

• 5K Run • Mound Building • Lila Garrett 8 am.

• Child Care Health Fair • Omniplex • Cindy Russell • 8 am.

• Fast-Pitch Softball • Omniplex • Ruby Booker • 8 am.

• 3 on 3 Basketball Adults • Omniplex • 8 am.

• Horseshoe Tournament • Omniplex • Larry Soweka • 8 am

• Volleyball • Omniplex • Jenna Gouge • 9 am.

• Elderly Activities • Fair Grounds Building • Pearl Thomas • 9 am.

• Art Festival • Creek Council House • Ted Isham • 10 am

• Children's rides • Omniplex • Cindy Russell • 12 pm

• Concerts • Omniplex • 2 pm.

• Allottee Reception • Green Country Vo-Tech • Donna Martin • 2 pm.

• Chief A. D. Ellis Address • Omniplex • 7 pm.

• Creek Hymn Singing • Okmulgee Indian Community Center • Mike Coon • 7 pm.

• All-Indian Rodeo • Omniplex • 8 pm.

SUNDAY JUNE 17

• CO-ED Slow-Pitch Softball • Okmulgee City Parks • Time dependant on number of teams

• Fast-Pitch Softball • Omniplex • 8 am.

• Golf Tournament • Cobblestone Course, Muskogee • 8 am.

Chief Ellis uses
his power to lead.



Use your power.

VOTE

56,290 Creeks can
make a difference



Native Vote 2004
Every Vote Counts

Letters

continued from page 13

ent went to jail and left her child with me and did not even care about her child enough to call me or even have someone bring her a change of clothes. Guess what she went to jail for?

As day care providers: 1. We are employed by the state of Oklahoma and are paid by the state but we receive none of the benefits such as: a) health insurance b) unemployment benefits c) 401k plans and d) dental plans. 2. We have no way of building up vacation time. 3. We have nothing set up as far as Holiday Pay or Overtime Pay. 4. Our privacy is invaded when we allow DHS into our homes, they come in and check rooms where the children are not even 'allowed'.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed day care because I worked at home and dealt with alot of children who only received care while they were in my home, and ran the streets til 11:00 p.m. because the parents were busy doing other things.

I even had one parent say I abused her child. I called DHS and reported the bruises. The day care supervisor at DHS told me not to worry about it.

Although I am no longer a day care provider, I do plan to advocate and defend day care providers by keeping in contact with them, discussing their issues and

complaints, and contact those in state and federal offices who call. Day Care providers who have issues or complaints should call me any time at 756-2648.

La Sonja Hanson, Okmulgee

Man expresses appreciation

Editor:

This is to say 'thank you' to all who gave in one way or another to the Indian Taco and Gospel Singing Benefit for Christie R. Jackson that was held March 13th. The benefit was a great success. I send my most sincere gratitude to all of you. Your thoughts and prayers for Christie as well as for the kids and I, have been most supportive and helpful.

Christie was discharged from the St. Johns Hospital and is now being cared for at Grace Nursing Home in Muskogee. She has made much improvement medically and physically. We continue to hold to the faith and hope that she will recover neurologically along with other procedures she will go through. THANK YOU again for all your help and prayers. *Mvto.*

Chris Jackson, Oktaha

Twin Hills Community report

Editor:

On April 15th, the Twin Hills Indian Community hosted the Eufaula, Okmulgee, and Tulsa communities.

Esther Grona gave a brief outline on the upcoming trip that is planned for Washington D.C. and the costs. Afterward everyone enjoyed a meal of catfish or spaghetti & meatballs and salad. Desserts were served also. After our meal we played bingo and had a wonderful time of fellowship with one another.

Twin Hills Senior Officers are: Evelyn Parker, Chairperson; Dorothy Myers, Vice-chairperson; and Norma Hale, Secretary/Treasurer.

Twin Hills Community Members

Programs

continued from page 13

Indian Community Center June 3 and 17 1 - 3 pm. For more information contact Janice Hanun at 732-7618.

Jones Academy reunion

HARTSHORNE — There will be a reunion at Jones Academy for all students, friends, and employees on May 22 at the campus, Hartshorne, Oklahoma. Register in gym at 10, Bar-be-que at 3rd pond at 12, Organizational meeting at 4. Barney Ingram and Medicine Pony Band will provide music for the dance at 7 p.m. For further information please contact Carolyn Powell, (918) 733-2825, Wanda Justice (918) 297-2399, or Johnny Tonihka (580) 924-0442.

Red Stick Gallery

Creek Council House Museum

Discover The Uncommon

Unique Gifts & Collectibles

Join in the Activities
Creek Festival
Saturday, June 19, 2004
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Shop talk with Gerald

Hats off to all Creek athletes competing in high school regional and state championships in the month of May. A lot of sports are happening this spring: baseball, track & field, softball, and tennis to name a few. So get out if you can and see some good athletic action. Do you think you got what it takes to be a professional basketball player? The American Basketball Association has been created and will begin playing basketball later this year. The Association has created an all Native American Team and is holding tryouts in June and July at places such as Billings, Montana and Rapid City. The closest to Oklahoma will be on July 24 in Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Clinton Pilcher at (408) 712-5890.

Congratulations to Creek baseball player Keith Bucktrot of the Reading Phillies. Bucktrot is a pitcher with the Double A farm club team that is associated with the Philadelphia Phillies. Bucktrot pitched his first game on April 14 against the Bowie Baysox. He pitched a shut-out and won by a score of 4-0.

Local universities and colleges have just completed their spring football. Yes, spring football practices! It used to be said, there are only two sports in Oklahoma, football and spring football. There are so many college football teams out there that enjoyed successful seasons. Oklahoma State wins its bowl game and Tulsa University had the greatest successful turn around of any Division I college football team. Smaller colleges such as Northeastern State, Bacone, and East Central are also on the rise and expect great things. And of course, who can forget about Haskell Indian Nations University.

One more word about the March Madness Basketball tournament. Eric Starr certainly had his plate full during the event held on March 18 - 20. Not only did he coach the John Crow Memorial Foundation girls team to a championship victory, the very next game he coached the John Crow Memorial Foundation boys team to a runner-up finish in the tournament. The foundation sponsored both teams by taking care of food and lodging expenses.

As promised, Video and DVD copies of the boys and girls championship games, as well as the individual competitions, are ready to be ordered from the Communications Department. For ordering information call (918) 732-7635 or 732-7637.

It won't be long before it festival time again. The 30th annual event is slated for June 18 - 20. And of course there will be a lot of good sporting events happening. Make sure your teams are entered!



John Crow Memorial Foundation

Creek girls are fashionably sporty

Don't hate them because they can look quite stylish or can even throw a runner out at home. In fact, don't hate them at all, because they're just good Creek girl athletes playing good softball. Ready in one minute to get dressed up for a night on the town and then down the cleats and batting glove the next. They are members of the Okemah Lady Panthers and the month of May they were able to guide their slow-pitch softball team to a spot in the state Championship tournament.

For the Lady Panthers, its been quite a season. First they finished the regular season at 36 wins and only 8 losses.

"We have been happy with the season," said Panther Head Coach Britt Dean. Dean is in his sixth year of coaching and has enjoyed the competitive atmosphere that softball gives.

"It has been a joy coaching these girls," said Dean. "Everyone thinks of the team first and works toward a common goal."

Dean encountered no major problems with the team. Perhaps the only major bump in the road has been the controversial decision the coach and the team decided on last month. "We were in the Washington Tournament," explains Dean. "It was on a weekend, but it was prom weekend and a lot of the girls wanted to go." So what would be the decision be for

the Lady Panthers? "Well, I wanted to stay and play in the tournament," says Coach Dean, "But the team voted on attending the prom."

So the ladies quickly untied the cleats and laced up the high heels for a memorable night at the High School prom.

What makes this team special is that they are lead by five outstanding Creek athletes, they are: Amber Sands; Katie

Bo Coon; Mallory Bible; Lachelle Berryhill; and Zipporah Yahola. Coach Dean is proud of their accomplishments.

"They are good kids," says Dean. "Zipporah is a good outfielder and bats fourth for us. For Lachelle this is the first time she has played for us in a couple of years and plays third base very well. Mallory is a solid player at outfield and bats fifth for us. Katie is our shortstop. Amber pitches for us and is a tremendous hitter. She and Katie have over 20 home runs.

They hit like men! We are more offensive minded, but we are so much better defensively than last year. We were able to stay in games."

Able to stay in games as long as a special social function doesn't interfere with a game, right coach?

Whether on the dance floor or on the diamond, these Creek girls are looking good.



Pictured above standing, from left to right, are: Katie; Zipporah; Lachelle; Amber; and Mallory.

Martial artist inducted into hall of fame

NEW YORK — Billy Joe "Chebon" Marks, Muscogee (Creek) Citizen from Oklahoma City, was recently inducted into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

Marks, who holds the rank of Go-Dan, fifth degree black belt in the Sogola Style Philippine Martial arts, was inducted in ceremonies held in Jamaica, New York on April 24.

Marks has been involved with Martial Arts for over 30 years and has studied many styles in the field of Martial Arts.

Marks at one time served as a security escort and bodyguard for tribal leaders and representatives.

At an early age, Marks attended the Tae-Kwon-Do Academy at Waltham, Massachusetts. He received his First Degree Black Belt at the prestigious Academy and was recognized at the rank of Go Dan, the highest rank degree.

After Marks finished training in Massachusetts,

he returned to Oklahoma and began teaching Tae-Kwon-Do and Karate at the Native American Center in Oklahoma City.

Marks became a member of the American Indian Karate Association and taught the art of Korean Karate to Native Americans living in the area for 12 years.

In June of 1979, Marks was interviewed by *Karate Illustrated* magazine. The self-defense magazine recognized Marks as one of the few Native American Karate Instructors in the United States at the time.

"My entire family has been very supportive of me in my efforts and achievements," says Marks. "My wife Thomasene, my children, Yafke Kolvswa, Hokshena, and Dennis have supported me daily in all manners."

The mental aspect of Karate can be very demanding. "Although Karate is an Oriental discipline, I believe it is the same discipline our ancestors, as warriors, were familiar with and practiced," said Marks.



Marks



Education/
Society

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Festival photos

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Health

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Kialegee hosts
first ever heavy-
weight title fight

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www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/

E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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July 2004, 20 Pages

Philpot selected for elite Naval fighter training

OKMULGEE — On June 11, David Philpot was sworn into the United States Navy, specifically into the Naval Air Academy. Philpot will begin his training on December 4 of this year.

Once Philpot enters the Naval base in Pensacola, Florida, he will train with the best in the Nation. Philpot was one of only eight candidates selected nationwide for flight training in the United States. He will also enter Officer Candidate School (OCS) and undergo 13 weeks of intensive physical training at OCS before entering Navy flight school for one and a half years.

"Where I will be placed all depends on where they (Navy officials) decide I will best be used," says Philpot. "And it depends on what they decide to train me in specifically."

Personally Philpot hopes to be given the orders of a fighter pilot. Of course the responsibilities of the fighter pilot are very difficult and very critical for the Nation's defense and not everyone chooses this type of work. But this is nothing new to the 23 year old who grew up in the tiny community of Fairland, Oklahoma. He always seemed to have a plan for what he wanted to do.

"I love a good challenge," says Philpot. "Usually the harder something is to do, the more I like trying to do it."

This from someone who completed and passed very highly all the physical regiments of a Navy Seal. Philpot could have gone in the Navy as a Seal. The Navy had only accepted the top 5 officers. "I could have went in as an enlisted man, but that just wasn't the way I wanted to go," said Philpot.

The Navy was still impressed with Philpot who had received his degree in Aviation Management from Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa. Not long after the Navy Seal test, an Instructor from the Navy Flight School called and said they were interested in recruiting Philpot in their flight school. "The Naval Flight called him (David) and said that was the first time that he had called anyone for recruitment into their flight school," said proud father Bill Philpot. Bill is also acquainted with flight, having served in the Army where he flew helicopters in Vietnam.

The son also brags on his Father. "Dad flew helicopters in Vietnam and received the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal," says Philpot. "If you have seen the movie *Pearl Harbor* at the end of the movie when the pilots are receiving their medals after Doolittle's raid, that is the same medal my dad received."

Housing Authority assists elderly tribal couple



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is constantly seeking new ways to help tribal citizens. One of the ways it does so is through the Housing Authority, now under the direction of Creek Nation. An example of this assistance is the full metal house they provided to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden. This house was the first full metal house to be presented in this pilot program designed to assist the elderly who need new houses. Mr. and Mrs. Gooden were very pleased, saying, "We're going to have to be like the Japanese, taking our shoes off and washing our hands to come into the house." According to tribal administration, this is only a glimpse of the good things to come for the Housing Authority and the entire Creek Nation. For more information about the Creek Nation Housing Authority and its programs, contact them at 756-8504 or (800) 259-5050.

photo by Greg Holuby

Chief Ellis plans to meet with Creek religious leaders

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis plans on having a meeting to bridge the gap between the Tribal Administration and the Creek churches and leaders on Saturday, August 14 in the Mound Auditorium.

During his state of the nation address, Ellis stated, "There are two kinds of politicians. There's politicians that make decision that benefit themselves and certain groups of people. There's another group that's called statesmen that make decisions that benefit the tribe as a whole regardless of what happens. I'd like to think all

of us sitting here are statesmen." That's the basis for the above mentioned meeting, to make decisions that will ben-

efit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and all parties involved.

"If a Nation is to prosper, we must observe all factions that comprise the Nation," stated Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. "We are truly spiritual people and consulting with both ceremonial and religious leaders will benefit all."



Pictured above is Chief Ellis and 13 Mekkos who attended the ceremonial leaders meeting earlier this year.

As with the meeting with the ceremonial leaders, a round table discussion will be held with every representative given time to voice their concerns and needs of the religious communities. A traditional lunch will be served after the meeting.

For more information about the meeting, contact the Office of the Principal Chief at (918) 732-7605.

Office of the Principal Chief...

I hope everyone has enjoyed the holiday and looking forward to a long hot summer.

The 30th Annual Creek Nation Festival in June was a huge success. I appreciate the great work that the new festival committee did on such short notice. I appointed the new committee in February so in 4 months they accomplished a great deal. I tip my hat to **Bob Arrington** for his crew for an outstanding rodeo. Over 150 contestants Friday night alone. Cowboys from throughout America and especially the Florida Seminoles made this bigger and better than expected. Congratulations, to the Creek Nation Royalty who were crowned to represent their respective division. I know they will set an example for all future young ladies to follow. A historic occasion was honoring our 3 remaining original allottees. This was a historic time and I was honored to meet these three women. May they have many more happy years.

I have set a date in August for a meeting of Creek Ministers or Church officials. This historic meeting will take place in the mound building and traditional food will be served after the meeting. Church leaders, preachers, or their representatives are invited to attend to ask questions, make comments and to see what we might do for each other. This meeting will be recorded and video taped for historical records.

September has also been chosen for the next town hall meeting at Tulsa Indian Community Center, bringing the government to the people.



by **A.D. Ellis**

On another subject, our nation is growing and prospering as changes take place and better programs are started. For the first time this year our children will receive new school clothes the first day of school and not in October or November. This I asked my director to change for our school children and they did.

Our newest Deputy Director is **Michael Flud**, in Human Development. Mr. Flud was a former Supreme Court Justice for 24 years.

This is my 6th month as Principal Chief and I hope I have made a positive impact on this nation. I now realize how Chief's Cox, Fife, and Beaver had to endure because in this position you are subject to blame for everything including lies, rumors, and untruths. Nothing will keep me from performing my role as Chief in an honorable and responsible way.

How many of you have noticed the new landscaping work being performed at our capital complex. Beautification of our nation's capital is very important and we must be proud of our workplace.

Mid-August is the finish date of the new electronic Creek Nation sign near our complex entrance, that will let everyone know who and where we are.

Again, thank you to our many employee's who make this nation what it is today. Also, to Holdenville Indian Community and chair, **Doug Scott**, for food and citizen's at the June Town Hall meeting. *Mvto.*

Quote of the month — *What's right isn't always popular, and what's popular isn't always right.*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce. I want to thank all of you that expressed an interest in last month's 2nd Opinion. I believe that you should know the traditions and customs of our people. Our traditions and customs are so rich and in depth that it would take books to explain every facet of our Nation. Sometimes I don't know where to start. So, I'm requesting that if you have an interest in our custom and traditions, that you send me your questions and I'll try to answer them as best as I can. We do have employees who also have a vast knowledge of our past.

I'm pleased to announce that we are attempting to fulfill the Language Institute Act that was passed by the National Council. Without our language, customs and traditions, we would not be unique and it's important to our sovereignty. I don't know the real percentage of our people that speak the language fluently, but I do know it's less than 10%. Even knowing the songs is a very important factor.

I don't know how many of you know the various ways our people use to fish for a living. And by, "a living", I mean



survival. Some ways were to use the devil's shoestring, green walnuts in a tow sack, nets, spearing, noodling a bow. There was a law passed by the state that outlawed most of these ways. Especially the use of the devil's shoestring, green walnuts and nets. The state said that these methods were un-sportsman like. They didn't consider that it was a great part of our heritage, or maybe they did.

I remember when I was just a young boy that my father, **Togo Berryhill**, took me with him on a couple of fish kills where they used a 60 ft. net. They chose a place on the river and several families gathered together to partake of fish that would be caught. Several men would take the net downstream and stretch it across the river and the other men would take clubs and go upstream. After the men stretched the net and others were in place, a signal was given and the men upstream began to beat the water and start shouting. As the fish began to be herded toward the

please see **SECOND...**, page 3

Citizen thanks supporters

Editor:

I would like to thank all of those who ordered the Blue & Gold sausage from me. Thank you for helping support the Western Heights High Band in Oklahoma City.

David Bear, Oklahoma City

Wetumka Church appreciates participation

Editor:

On April 18, 2004 the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church held a community singing and special prayer services for the military.

Churches and individuals that attended and brought special songs were: Wetumka Indian Baptist Church; Taylor Osborn, Wetumka; Sand Creek Baptist; Katie Smith, Okmulgee; Buckeye Baptist; Tina Washington, Calvin; Montesoma; Sue Franks, Holdenville; Tooparfka; Lucille Williams, Clearview; Salt Creek Methodist; Betty Taylor, Wetumka; and Salt Creek Baptist.

Special prayer services were brought by Reverend Wayne Harjo from Buckeye Baptist Church. A birthday song and cake was served for the Pastor of Wetumka Indian Baptist Church, Alec Buck.

Betty Scott, Okemah

please see **LETTERS...**, page 3

Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Jennifer Taryole, staff writer
Carla Brown, graphic designer
Joshua Slane, reporter
Wilma Murphy, circulation

June District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Security Finance vs. Susanna Barnett
- Kyle Williams vs. Faith Turpin
- Kimberly Bear vs. MCN, Office of Public Gaming & Ronald Hill, Acting Commissioner
- Discover Bank vs. Leona Cravatt aka Harjo
- Thlophlocco Tribal Town vs. Martha Tilly Noon Tomah; Bryan McGertt & Mary McGertt
- MCN vs. \$1,463; Methamphetamine; & 2004 General Motors Hummer – Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture

Protective Orders:

- Doreen Combs vs. Edward Benton
- Lucinda Wilson vs. Minnifree Wilson
- Tonya Young vs. Jon Young

Criminal - Felony:

- MCN vs. Shaneka Durant
count 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug
- MCN vs. Daron Harris
count 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug
- MCN vs. Michael Spainiard
count 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug
count 2: Poss. Of Illegal Drug

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN vs. Russell Porter
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Donald Billby Jr.
count 1: Public Intox.
count 2: Assault & Battery
- MCN vs. Kim Rodgers
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Debra Mahan
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Michael Littlebear
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Walter Washington
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Jonathon Berryhill
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Shayne Holland
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Wendy Phillips
count 1: Public Intox.
count 2: Battery
- MCN vs. Monty Stick
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Anthony Barnett
count 1: Public Intox.
- MCN vs. Jesse Felix
count 1: Public Intox.

Traffic:

- MCN vs. Brandon Winters
count 1: Disorderly Conduct

- MCN vs. Brandon Winters
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Kirby Stallings
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Bruce Laughlin
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Fontayne Payton
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Christy Cathey
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Danny Harrington
count 1: Indecent Exposure
- MCN vs. Price Anson
count 1: Driving w/o required reg.
- MCN vs. Steve Lanter
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Steve Lanter
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Joe Ben Brown
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Joe Ben Brown
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Christopher Cervantes
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Frisco Yargee
count 1: Reckless Driving
- MCN vs. Frisco Yargee
count 1: Driving w/o required reg.
- MCN vs. Russell Minor
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Craig Derkach
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Lisa Adams
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Robert Lee Johnson
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Marquis Washington
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- MCN vs. Marquis Washington
count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Donnell Watashe
— count 1: No Seat Belt
— count 2: No Child Restraint
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Justin D. Plum
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Phillip R. Carey II
— count 1: Possession of Illegal Drug
— count 2: Possession of Paraphernalia
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Jason Don Richards
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn
— count 1: Driving under Suspension
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn
— count 1: No Insurance
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Terro Winn
— count 1: Possession of Alcohol
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Rashauna Thomas
— count 1: Disorderly Conduct

Second

continued from page 2

net, they would begin striking the net and you could see the men holding the net and their hands would begin flinching when the fish hit the net.

On another given signal, the men farthest from the bank where the women had gathered began to bring in the net. Sometimes it was with great difficulty because of the abundance of fish and the size of the fish. The women were waiting with tubs to divide the catch up and begin to clean them on the spot. The smaller fish were tossed back into the river and some large ones were too. Each family received an equal share of the catch, but before they went home, they had a social dinner where stories were exchanged. But, none of the fish were wasted. The men would stretch the net out to dry and then examine the net for holes. Sometimes there were large holes where the big fish and went through.

When the women were cleaning the fish, they would save the air sacks that were in the fish and gathered all the children. They made each one of us swallow an air sack. They told us that if we swallowed the air sack that we would be like the fish and not drown. I don't see anything un-sportsman like because none of the fish were left on the banks to rot. It was a family affair and this kept our people together and helped each other. We didn't want any of our families to starve. Do you think **Jimmy Houston** shares his fish? I always see him throw it back in.

My mother used to get on to me for eating an ice cream cone while walking down the street she said, "you're not to show off what you have and you don't know who might be watching you and hasn't eaten in days."

May each of you have a blessed month. *Hvtm cehecares. Mvto.*

Letters

continued from page 2

Gouge family encourages family members to contact soldier

Editor:

Toby James Gouge is a specialist in the United States Army 1st Cavalry Division, currently stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. Specialist Gouge was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq on January 10, 2004. Toby has served 3 years in the Army and was recently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

He is the son of Marg Gouge and grandson of the late Woodrow Gouge of Oklahoma City. Gouge is Creek and Seminole and belongs to Hillabee tribal grounds.

We are proud of Toby and pray for his safe return. The family would like Toby's e-mail address printed so that family members may contact him. His e-mail address is tobygouge@yahoo.com.

Marg Gouge, Oklahoma City

please see **LETTERS...**, page 19

Transit Authority Survey

OKMULGEE — The June edition of the Muscogee Nation News contained an article pertaining to the establishment of a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority. This is a great opportunity for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its citizens. The survey form below is vital to this project and the information will enable the Transit Authority to plan out a program that will provide for the greatest needs in all areas. Please fill out the survey form and return to: Ben Chaney, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The deadline for survey submissions is August 31.

Native American Rights Fund

BOULDER, Colo. — The Native American Rights Fund will initiate a six-month campaign of print advertisements in the Indian owned and operated Native Voice newspaper located in Rapid City, South Dakota. This marks the first ever-planned campaign in alliance with a Native-owned press business.

The Native American Rights Fund is a national non-profit organization formed in 1970 to assist Indian tribes, individuals and organizations with legal advice and representation on issues of national significance to Native Americans. The Native American Rights Fund is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, with offices in Anchorage, Alaska and Washington, D.C.

Employment and Training

OKMULGEE — Employment and Training has two existing programs geared to help students attending vocational schools, including OSU-Okmulgee.

The first program is available for residents within the Creek Nation boundary area. Applications are now being accepted through August 13. For more information call (800) 482-1979, ext. 7777 or come by the office to pick up an application.

The second program is available to enrolled members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, regardless of place of residence. For more information call (800) 482-1979, ext. 7773.

Greenleaf Baptist Promotion Day

OKEMAH — Greenleaf Baptist Promotion Day will be held on September 25 from 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. There will be games for children with a focus on ages three through 14. The games will include a sack race, turtle race (bring your own turtle), water balloons, and a cake walk. Also, there will be door prizes, freebies, and pizza. The activities will be located 2 miles west of Okemah on Highway 52 and 1/4 mile south.

School Clothing Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council recently funded a School Clothing Program for all Creek citizen school children by the request of the Principal Chief, A. D. Ellis.

This year, unlike previous years, there are two school clothing programs available, one with income guideline restrictions and one without income guideline restrictions.

Applications may be picked up at your nearest tribal community center or call (800) 205-3705 or (918) 732-7680. Upon request, an application will be mailed to you. Applica-

tions should be returned to the community center where they were obtained or mail to: Office of Child Care, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Applicants must be a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, must be enrolled in school, and must submit income verification to determine which program you qualify for.

Five Year Plan

OKMULGEE — The Children and Family Services Administration (CFSA) five year plan is available for anyone inter-

ested, as well as copies of the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families Final Report for Fiscal Years 2000 through 2004.

The Final Report describes accomplishments of the Indian Child Welfare and Promoting Safe and Stable Families Programs during the period beginning October 1999 through the June 2004. The Five Year Plan describes goals and objectives for the period beginning Oct. 2004 through Sept. 2009.

For copies of the Final Report and/or Five Year Plan, call (918) 732-7869 or e-mail: eddies@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TRANSIT AUTHORITY

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

5-17-04

The purpose of this survey is to accurately reflect the transportation needs of the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. If you would benefit from a public transportation system, please complete this survey and estimate usage and times as correctly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this important survey.

1. Tribal member _____ Non Tribal Member _____

2. County _____

3. Age 0-10 _____ 61-70 _____
 11-20 _____ 71-80 _____
 21-40 _____ 81-90 _____
 41-60 _____ 91+ _____

4. Nearest Community Center _____

5. Please indicate expected travel needs each week by specifying destination and checking the day of the week and type of need.

Travel reason	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Destination
Work							
Medical							
Community							
Social							
School							
Other							

6a. If your travel needs have specific arrival times, please indicate the approximate time you need to be at your destination.

Reason	A.M.							P.M.						non specific
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Work														
Medical														
Community														
Social														
School														
Other														

6b. If your travel has specific return times, please indicate the approximate times.

Reason	A.M.						P.M.						non specific
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	
Work													
Medical													
Community													
Social													
School													
Other													

7. Would you require a bus with handicap accessibility?

Yes No
☐ ☐

Other comments _____

Please return completed survey to your community center or mail to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation
 P.O. Box 580
 Okmulgee, OK 74447
 Ben Chaney, Transportation Planner

Thank you for taking time to fill out this very important survey

Education

Seventh grader inducted into National Junior Honor Society

VIAN — Glynna Drew, a seventh grade student at Vian Middle school, has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

The National Junior Honor Society is a national organization with the goal of creating enthusiasm for scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. To become a member of the Vian Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 and complete and turn in an application.



Drew

Glynna is also in the State Honor Society and was listed on the Superintendent's Honor Roll this year. She enjoys playing sports and is a member of Vian Middle School's Technology Student Association (TSA), where she and her partner placed second in the mechanical challenge at this year's State Meet.

Drew is the daughter of Yvonne Drew.

Grandparents are Fred and Monta Drew. She is the great-granddaughter of Dave and Ora Drew and the great-great-granddaughter of Peter Roberts Ewing who served in the House of Warriors and was chosen by President Herbert Hoover as Acting Chief of the Creek Nation.

Glynna's great-great-great grandfather, William Penn McCombs, served in the House of Warriors and on the Creek Nation Supreme Bench.

Acie Patterson

DURANGO, Colo. — Acie Patterson graduated from American schools in homeschooling in 2003. He is currently attending Fort Lewis College.

He is very active in the Church of Christ in Ignacio, and enjoys playing ice and roller hockey, baseball, volleyball, fly fishing, and golfing.

Acie is currently employed at Home Depot as the head cashier over his department.

Patterson is the son of Stan and Cathy Patterson of Durango, and the grandson of Gladys Mason and the great grandson of Hattie Stone.

He is a member of the bird clan and Tulsa tribal town.

Acie plans to transfer to Arizona State University to finish his degree in architect.



Patterson

Jere Smith

WETUMKA — Jere Smith graduated from the Wetumka High School. His highlights include: honor roll; FCA; FFA; 4-H; football, second team all-district defensive back; baseball/ basketball, all conference, all-stars, team MVP and nominated Oklahoma Indian All-state team.

He participated in band and received the John Phillip, Sousa award and Texas/Oklahoma Leader of Leaders Award.

He is the son of James and Joey Smith and grandson of Charles and Lillie Masengale.

Smith's has signed to play basketball at Southwestern Christian University in Bethany.



Smith

Birthdays

Alexander celebrated 92nd birthday

OAKHURST — A birthday celebration was held on June 12 at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church in honor of Rev. William Alexander on the occasion of his 92nd birthday.

Rev. Alexander was born June 12, 1912 to Robert and Abbie Williams Alexander of Holdenville. Special recognition was given to him by Chief A.D. Ellis and Second Chief Alfred Berryhill.

Many friends and relatives were in attendance, including his dear friends, Rev. and Mrs. George Doyle. Rev. Alexander was honored as pastor, dad, grandfather, uncle and friend. He has served as pastor of the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for 24 years. The event was hosted by his daughter, Mary Sue Peak.

Jennings celebrates fourth birthday with Spiderman

OKMULGEE — Colton Dwight Jennings turned 4 on June 21 and celebrated his birthday at Pizza Hut with a Spiderman theme.

He is the son of Clint and Carrie Jennings of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are the late Gary and Debra Guthrie of Wainwright.

Paternal grandparents are James and Joyce Jennings of Okmulgee.

Clint's aunts and uncles are: Chris and Christie Jackson of Wainwright, Bud Guthrie of Haskell, and Jessica Guthrie of Council Hill.

His cousins are Cassie and Cheyenne Jackson and Alex Jennings.



Jennings

Wind celebrated 80th birthday

WELEETKA — Tochee celebrated her 80th birthday on May 31 at the Weleetka Indian Community Center with her four daughters and son-in-laws Eddie and Gretchen Lindsey, Billie Wind, Timmie and Regina Lowe and Charley and Keselar Mitchell. Her five grand daughters, one grandson three great grand daughters, six great grandsons and one great-great-grandson were there to help blow out the candles.

Tochee's cake was made like a Bible with "Happy Birthday Mom" on one side and Proverbs 31:10 on the other side with the word Holy Bible on the ribbon in the middle. A rose on each corner represented the birthday of her four daughters.

Many of Tochee's relatives and friends were there to help celebrate.



Wind

Society

Fish celebrates their 56th anniversary

WETUMKA —

Waitie and Emma Fish, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on June 23.

The married couple enjoy going out to eat and shopping.

They have two daughters Evelyn Pope of Sand Springs and Patsy Fish of Hickory Ridge, 6 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.



Fish

Oklahoma City Creek Association Honors Veterans

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association honored veterans at the June 1, 2004 meeting. Honorees included veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars from all branches of the military. All veterans present were honored, including members of other tribes. The veterans were presented with Muscogee Nation Tribal Seal and American flag lapel pins.

A new activity is the cultural night the second Tuesday of each month with topics that include learning to make fry bread and grape dumplings. The OCMA office hours for social services applications are Tuesdays 9 A.M. through 4 P.M. and Wednesdays, 9 A.M. through 6 P.M. The address for the OCMA is 543 SE 29th in Oklahoma City. For further information contact OCMA at 405-605-2621.

30th ANNUAL Creek Festival



Chief Ellis reviews his plans for the Muscogee Nation Citizens.



Pictured from left, council representatives Rita Williams and Cherrah Quiett promote voter registration.



A well placed pitch.



Tradition being carried on.



Children were eager to learn how to make hand made crafts.



Young athletes worked hard through out the day.



Bullseye!



Young and old joined in the Stomp Dance.



Setting up for the spike.



Strike!



Wetumka teammates wait their turn for the softball throw.



It's not a stomp dance without out the fire.



Bingo caller revealing the lucky numbers.



Friendly game of dominoes.



Many crafts were on display at the Council House Museum.

Ocmulgee Tribal Town equal to a modern day observatory

MACON, GA. — For at least the past 1100 years, the Muscogee people have celebrated *Poskita*, Green Corn, on the Summer Solstice whereby the Sacred Fire is rekindled and distributed to the households of the people. Until recently, it was not known how the Muscogee people knew when the Summer Solstice started. It has been discovered that the first large tribal town, Ocmulgee, was one enormous observatory. Evidently, their knowledge of math, geometry, astronomy, and land measurement approached or may have even equalled to that of the famous Mayan Civilization. It's quite probable some form of writing existed in order that the knowledge be passed down from one generation to the next.

Three dimensional computer analysis of the Ocmulgee National Monument and surrounding areas have revealed that all of the major structures were precisely located in geometric patterns stretching over a mile wide in order to calculate the movement of the sun, planets, and stars. The discovery was made by Georgia architect and city planner of Creek descent, Richard Thornton. A book, written by renowned University of Georgia anthropology Professor David J. Hally in 1994, hinted briefly that there was an appearance of a precise arrangement and evidence of a standard unit of measurement at Ocmulgee. However, Hally, who studied Native American architecture and visited virtually all the major archaeological sites in North and Central America, did not have access to the advanced computer technology, plus training in graphics and civil engineering that typifies modern day architects.

By interpolating precise three dimensional topo-

graphic and satellite images with the findings of archaeologists in the 1930's and 1940's, Richard Thornton was shocked to find the site as precisely laid out as a modern office park. Further analysis, using a virtual reality computer program from France, revealed that the alignments of the structures would be able to tract the solar solstices and equinoxes, plus probably the locations of various stars, planets, and eclipses. Among other things, his findings were:

Radiating out from *Mound A*, which begun around 900 A.D., were straight lines of structures running absolutely true north and south. There were other lines of structures which ran absolutely true east and west. Other lines of structures were perfectly delineated to points where the sun would rise and set on the Equinoxes and Solstices.

The *McDougall Mound* and *Dunlap Mound* were both exactly 3,424 ft. from *Mound A* and exactly one half that distance apart from each other. Another line of structures were placed across the landscape in a line a mile long, which pointed to the rise of the North Star.

One line of structures radiated southward from *Mound A* for six miles to mark the point of the sunrise on the winter Solstice above *Brown's Mound* on the Ocmulgee River

Several earth lodges or round underground ceremonial chambers had openings which allowed sunlight in only on certain days, such as February 21.

Presently, the Ocmulgee Fields are in danger. In March 2002, the National Parks Conservation Association placed Ocmulgee National Monument on their list of ten most endangered National Parks. In May 2003, the

National Trust for Historic Preservation named Ocmulgee one of the 11 most endangered places in America.

The danger to the sacred site comes in the form of highway construction. The first highway constructed across the lands in the 1960's destroyed burials and numerous ancestral sites. Since then, the Swift Creek Mound Complex and a number of other important sites within the Ocmulgee Old Fields have been destroyed. Now the Georgia Department of Transportation proposes to build the Eisenhower Parkway Extension through the Ocmulgee Fields wetlands between the Macon Plateau and Lamar Village units of the Ocmulgee National Monument.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's National Council has formally opposed this route, which is also opposed by the National Parks Conservation Association, the Archaeological Conservancy, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Sierra Club, the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest, the Georgia Wilderness Society, along with many other organizations and individuals.

One solution would be legislation to incorporate privately donated land and the entire 2,000 acres originally delineated in 1934, as well as additional land in the Traditional Cultural Property District.

To help take action please write to your Congressional Representatives and to Mary E. Peters, Federal Highway Administrator, 400 7th Street S. W. Washington D.C. 20509.

For more information about the Ocmulgee Tribal Town, contact Richard L. Thornton at: Talamachusee Design Studio, 62 Twin Oak Trace, Talking Rock, GA 30175;

Ceremonial Leader Highlight: The late Russell Thompson

There are certain people in the world that stand out among their fellow men as simply extraordinary.

One such man was Russell Thompson. He lived his life as a service and example to the people of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Russell was born in 1930 and was of the Bear Clan. During his life he travelled extensively visiting or living in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas, before finally moving into Creek Nation when he took up learning to be a medicine man at the feet of his father, Thompson Sr.

In his role as a medicine man, he served at the Arbeka Tribal Town. Later, he served as medicine man at Alabama, Muddy Waters, and Nuyaka. He left Ala-

bama and Muddy Waters but took the positions of Medicine Man and Mekko at Nuyaka.



The late Russell Thompson, left, stands with his son, Russell.

He fought hard against the loosing of the traditional ways. He taught the language and the ways to those who wished to learn, as much as he was allowed by his positions. He especially worked on teaching the young people to enjoy and participate in the ways of their people.

One of the best attributes he brought to his roles of Medicine Man and Mekko was that he naturally, and selflessly,

wished to help others.

"He would go out of his way to help people, and wouldn't ask anything in return," his daughter Shirley

Thompson remembers. "He never turned anyone away, everyone was welcome at his house. If they didn't have anywhere to go they could stay at his house, people of any color or race."

He served faithfully in his roles until his death in 2000.

Besides being a Medicine Man and Mekko, he was a devoted father and husband. He married Cherokee Wildcat, a full blood Cherokee, in 1954 and they were married until she passed away in 1992. He had 5 daughters and one son, 22 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

When asked, one of his daughter's fondest memories was his laugh, "He had a distinguished laugh," said Deborah Burgess. "Everyone knew him by his laugh. It could be dark and they'd know it was him by his laugh."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The MNN requests article and photo submissions of ceremonial people, both past and present, to be published in upcoming issues. Typed submissions may be mailed or e-mailed to the Communications Department.



A very close race.



Gospel Singing was a hit during the festival.



Young ones were intrigued by the crafts during the art show.



Chief watching the stomp dance.



Allottees pose for a picture.



Tries for a birdie.



Toss a ringer.

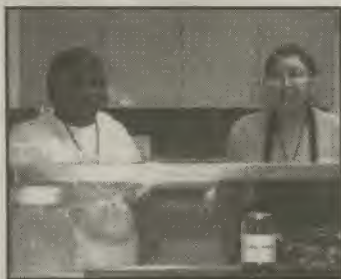
Muscogee Division of Health Administration

OKMULGEE — The Division of Health Administration is made up of several programs dedicated to the health care and prevention of our Creek citizens. During our summer months our health care system focuses on our elders and their health.

Elderly Nutrition Meal Program

SAPULPA — The Elderly Nutrition Program is for Native Americans 55 years of age or older. Meals are served 5 days a week. ENP also serves the homebound elders.

These centers not only provide nutritious meals to our elders, but also provide a place for our elders to come together and visit, pass on news and much more.



Centers are located at the following locations: Bristow Center, 121 West Lincoln Street; Dewar Center, 402 Louella St.; Eufaula Center, 800 Forest St., Holdenville Center PO Box 264; Koweta Center, 141 Ben Lumpkin Rd., Muskogee Center, 111 South Virginia St.; Okemah Center, 110 South Division St.; Okmulgee Center, Hwy 75 and Loop 56 Main Complex; Sapulpa Center, 1020 North Brown St., and Wetumka Center, 608 North Creek St.

Family Caregiver Training

OKMULGEE — Creek Nation Caregiver Program is offering basic skills training to individuals or families who provide personal daily activity care to an elder.

The family caregiver will be presenting basic techniques and tips for giving personal care to elders and providing information for contacting professional services and agencies.

The following is a list of topics offered: how to care for someone on bedrest; how to help someone in a wheelchair; how to manage medications; fall preven-

tion; and stress/relaxation management.

Eligibility requirements include: the elder being cared for must be Native American; 55 years or older; and live within Creek Nation service area. Skills training is one of several services offered by the Caregiver Program. For more information contact Loretta Wind Jumper, at the Caregiver Program (918) 758-2727.

Diabetes Elderly Activities Program

OKEMAH — DHA Diabetes Program Exercise Manager, Irene Culley, provides diabetes awareness education and physical activities to the elders through the ENP on a monthly basis.

There are 10 nutrition centers within the Creek Nation area. An average of 15 elders have been attending these activities at each center. The Diabetes Prevention Program study showed that elders can benefit more than other groups in preventing the onset of diabetes if exercise is added to their daily lives.

Some of the topics being taught include: diabetes can be prevented; benefits of exercise; and nutrition. The elders learn how to prevent and control diabetes through the educational presentations and learning how to exercise and maintain flexibility and strength. The sessions are held at the nutrition centers during the hours of 11 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Through the class, "Benefits of Exercise", the elders have been taught how to do chair exercises and use dyna bands for flexibility and strengthening. A video on chair exercise is available to the centers. Groups may start an exercise session on their own.

Walking programs are encouraged at each center and many elders have started walking more on a daily basis. For more information please contact Irene Culley at (918) 623-1424.

Mvskokvlke P.R.I.D.E. (Prevention and Reducing Indian Diabetes Everyday)

OKEMAH — The Diabetes Prevention and Management Program will be holding 4 diabetes prevention

the body from releasing heat quickly. Other conditions that can limit the ability to regulate temperature include old age, youth (ages zero to four), obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug use and alcohol use.

What is a heat stroke? Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature. The body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106 degrees or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided.

What should I do if I see someone with the warning signs of a heat stroke? Have someone call for immediate medical assistance. Get the victim to a shady area. Immerse victim in cool water or spray the victim with a garden hose. Wait for emergency assistance to arrive.

day camps this summer. These camps will be three days of diabetes prevention education, physical activity and fun. The third day will be a field trip to Big Splash in Tulsa for all participants who attend the first two days.

The camp is free to all ten to 15 year old American Indian children living within the Muscogee (Creek) boundary area.

Camp Schedule is as follows: Okmulgee Clinic Camp, July 19 through 21, at the Okmulgee YMCA; Okemah Clinic Camp, July 26 through 28, at the Okemah 1st Baptist Church; Eufaula Clinic Camp, August 4 to 6, Eufaula Boarding School; and Sapulpa Clinic Camp, August 9 through 1, location to be announced. For more information and a registration packet, please contact Scott Robison at (800) 219-9458, ext. 456

Dental Clinic Receives Award

OKMULGEE — The Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service granted an award to the Okmulgee Dental Clinic for providing service to the highest proportion of the user population for fiscal year 2003. The Okmulgee Dental Clinic also won this award for fiscal year 2002.

This award demonstrates that the Okmulgee Dental Clinic offers the highest access to care for their patients. The Okmulgee Dental Clinic competed with a large number of dental clinics ranging from Lawrence, KS to Lawton.

Native American Diabetes Awareness Camp

WEWOKA — Enjoy traditional summer camp activities, native story telling, native arts & crafts, while learning how to prevent diabetes. Guest Speaker for the camp will be Actor Steve Reevis, Blackfeet. The camp will be held at the Wewoka Woods Camp Grounds on July 25 through August 1, for ages eight to 14. Native Education and Health Initiative Inc. is sponsoring the camp. For more information please contact James Bokovoy at (918) 284-9284.

Doctor's Note

From the office of Dr. Lawrence Vark, DHA CMO

OKMULGEE — Despite mild June weather we have had here in Oklahoma, sooner or later we will be having true summer temperatures. The high temperatures and humidity that exist in Oklahoma can result in conditions dangerous for our citizens.

What happens to the body as a result of exposure to extreme heat? People suffer heat related illness when the body's temperature control system is overloaded. The body normally cools itself by sweating. Under some conditions, sweating just isn't enough. In such cases, a person's body temperature rises rapidly. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs. Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing

DHA Updates

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System is pleased to announce the addition of two new physicians to the medical staff. Dr. Denny Parton and Dr. Jim Harjo. Dr. Parton began his employment on July 1. He is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He did his post graduate training in family practice. Parton is a member of the Western Delaware Tribe. He will be practicing at the Okemah facility. Dr. Harjo is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He will be practicing in the Okemah facility.

The Sapulpa clinic has underwent major renovation work. Space has been expanded from 6,600 sq. ft. to 15,000 sq. ft. The DHA is continually striving to improve the healthcare system for the citizens. Currently, plans are being made to extend clinic hours.



Hopeful player hopes to keep his team ahead.



Volleyballers playing hard for First Place.



Player looking for the long drive.



Future bullrider holds on tight.



Okfuskee staying cool under the hot sun.



Horse and trainer give thanks to the crowd.



2nd Chief at the Hymnal Singing.



Chief Ellis participates in grand entry.



Spectators watch as this horseshoe participant tries for a ringer.



Volleyballer serves up.



The rain didn't stop kids from getting on the slides.



Cowgirl gives barrel racing her best shot.



Uptown Horns put on a good show for the festival.



Many kids participated in the calf scramble during the rodeo.



Fires in a throw from outfield.



Defense is a must in basketball.



The runners anticipate the sound of the gun.



I hear a ringer.



Ladies fast pitch put on quite a show.



Second Chief Berryhill waves to the crowd along with princesses.



Chief Ellis poses with the 3 remaining original allottees.



Many tried there luck during the elderly activities bingo game.



Many participated in the Creek hymnal singing.

Dayle James for Sheriff



Retired Sheriff Dayle James announces his candidacy for Sheriff. After retiring from the Sheriff's position in June 1999, I have been asked numerous times by many different people to run again.

Qualifications:

I offer more than 15 years of Law Enforcement experience with a proven track record in overall management and administration including: Okmulgee County Sheriff, Oklahoma State Trooper, Legislative Liaison, Investigation, Drug Enforcement, Jail Management, Planning, Budgeting, Supervision, strong management skills for reorganization of operations, implementing management controls, and developing strategic plans, experience and administering budget, forecasting and purchasing experience. Highly effective abilities in establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with various law enforcement agencies (chiefs, sheriffs, OHP, OSBI, IRS, DEA, FBI and special task forces), district attorneys, Creek Nation Light Horse.

Continuing Education:

Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Successfully completed 20 courses (167 hours) Oklahoma City 1992-97, including: Gangs and Awareness Legal updates, Homicide Investigation, Domestic Disturbances, Mental Health, First Responder, etc...

National Sheriffs' Association, Graduate of 1993, An executive-level development course designed for first time sheriffs focusing on administrative, employee training, criminal justice and constituent group issues, Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma City, OK- Oklahoma Highway Patrol School (16 week course).

Law Enforcement Experience:

Morris Police Department 3-2004 to 5-2005, Okmulgee County Sheriff 12-1991 to 6-1999, Named to the Jail Task Force to study the state's county jails and sheriffs' offices, Department of Public Safety 10-1972 to 10-1980, Assigned to Okmulgee County.

Professional Organizations:

National Sheriffs' Association- Legislative and Crime Prevention Committees, Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association-Legislative Committee and Board of Directors, Northeastern Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association-President for 3 years, American Jail Association, District Attorney's Council, Drug and Violent Crime Board and for the State of Oklahoma- The board distributed \$6.5 million in grants to local and state agencies (annually) for 4 years.

While I was Sheriff, I wrote grants and received monies for these grants. I hired two deputies to teach the DARE program and one deputy to work with the neighborhood watch programs. I also hired a deputy to work Crimes Against the Elderly, another deputy to work Domestic Violence Intervention and one as a trash cop deputy.

If I am elected sheriff, this door will always be unlocked during business hours. I retired Sheriff Dayle James, always told myself and employees that we serve the people of Okmulgee County. This means you, the citizens of Okmulgee County, are our boss! I promise you, as your employee, that we will work for you. Make your vote count July 27th, 2004!

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BILLIE BURDEN

WELEETKA—Funeral services for Billie J. Burden were held June 25 at First Baptist Church with Rev. Pascal Bevan and Rev. Bob Shoemake officiating.

He was born May 24, 1926, to Andrew Jackson and Augusta Stephenson Burden. He was born, raised, and attended school in Weleetka. He married Mildred Croney on March 15, 1944 at the Allen Freewill Baptist Church. She passed away on October 15, 1979. Billie later married Dorothy Coleman on September 30, 1983.

Burden worked for seismograph as a driller for three years. He then went to work for PSO for 40 years as an engineer retiring in 1980. He served two terms on the Creek Nation National Council. Billie was the founding chairman of the Creek Nation Agribusiness board. He was very proud of legislation he started which provided clothing to Native American children, which is still in effect today. Burden was also involved in getting legislation passed which increased health care and burial benefits. Billie was on the Creek Nation Hospital Auxiliary Board and a PSO job steward. He was a long time member of the Allen Freewill Baptist Church also serving as a deacon.

His hobbies included hunting, fishing, camping, traveling, gardening, and music. As a young man he sang in a quartet on the radio in Henryetta. Billie was a champion roper and loved horses and horse racing, cattle, and game fowl.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his sister, Geneva. Survivors include: wife, Dorothy, of the home; three children, Toni Wisner of Okemah, Steve and Phillip, both of Weleetka; three step-children, Susan of Weleetka, Ronald and Elizabeth Barnett, both of Oklahoma City; twenty-two grandchildren and step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Interment was at Hillcrest Cemetery.

JEWELL DOWLING

EUFULA—Funeral services for Jewell Mae Dowling were held June 26 at New Arbor Baptist Church with Rev. Ernest Best officiating.

She was born to Zenas Thomas and Evelyn Jean Dowling on November 18, 1960 at Kansas City Missouri. She attended Eufaula Public Schools and graduated from their in 1978. She loved doing paper work and loved helping her family and friends with there taxes or what ever paper work they had to do. At the time of her passing she was attending Connors Jr. College majoring in computer sciences and business. Dowling was a member of the New Arbor Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death were: her grandparents, father, and brother, Bill Rice. Survivors include: mother, Evelyn Dowling, of the home; daughters, Becky of Tulsa and Amy Mayhew of Muskogee; sons, Zackery Mayhew of Eufaula, Zeb and Isiah Grazioni of Muskogee; brothers, Charlie of Sudham, Zenas Thomas Jr, Sandy, Robert, William, Thomas Dowling, all of Eufaula; sister, Sandy Herndon of Eufaula; and granddaughter.

Pallbearers were: Steve Smith; Jackie Jones; Chane Pettit; Timmy Jones; Doug Reynolds; and Michael Deere.

Interment was at the Mellett Cemetery.

LILLIE GOUGE

HENRYETTA—Funeral services for Lillie M. Gouge were held at Shurden Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Wesley

VanMeter and Rev. Judson Deere officiating.

She was born December 14, 1925 in Hanna to Lucy and Sam Butler.

Lillie retired from Neiman-Marcus department store. Preceding her in death were: her parents; husband, Tom Gouge; three brothers, Andrew, Robert, and Wiley Butler; and one daughter, Joan Gouge.

Survivors include: two daughters, Wanda Campos of Dallas, Texas and Betsy Taryole of Henryetta; son, Tom Gouge Jr. of Henryetta; nine grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and one sister, Liza Mitchell and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery.

CHARLES PALMER

TULSA—A memorial service was held June 23 at the Church of Latter Day Saints for Charles Wesley Palmer.

He was born June 24, 1925 and passed away on June 19.

Survivors include: wife, Mary of 50 years; daughter, Ruby Hayward; sons, George and David Palmer; two granddaughters; and one great granddaughter.

Gratitude

We the family of George Cook would like to say *mvto* to Thlophlocco Tribal Town, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Creek Nation Social Services, Creek Nation Light Horsemen Tribal Police, Thlophlocco Methodist Church, Children of St. Paul United Methodist Church, and Creek Nation Color Guard for all the prayer's and donations, food, plant's and kind words during the loss of our dad, husband, grandfather, and uncle.

Also we would like to give a very special *mvto* to Rev. Scottie Harjo, Rev. Harry Long, Leroy Harjo, Leona Zink, Allen Yargee, Minnie, Connie, and Lillie Ann Johnson, Betty and Gail Smith, Prairie Spring Indian Baptist Church, Springfield Methodist Church, Montesoma Indian Baptist Church, and members of Alabama Ceremonial ground for all your kindness, prayer's and support and hard work.

George Cook family

A special gratitude is extended to Rev. Amon Harjo for officiating the service and those who assisted with the service Rev. Joshua Harjo, Rev. Norman Daniels, and Rev. Sydney Lee.

Our appreciation is extended to Chief A.D. Ellis for coming by to pay his respect to the family. *Mvto*.

We express our deepest gratitude to the many friends and relatives for your prayers, calls, flowers, food and acts of kindness. Thank you for embracing us during our time of sorrow. We will remember you with the deepest admiration and affection. Bless each and everyone of you. We shall cherish the memories.

We were truly blessed by those who sung the Creek hymns. *Mvto* for the beautiful singing. We express appreciation to Anna Jo Fife, Elouise Factor and Rena Whitecloud for the special songs sung during the service. Thank you Jake Jackson and those who sung Amazing Grace at the cemetery.

We are grateful to Elsie Lowery, Alene Barnett, Delores Herrod, Evelyn Bucktrot, Norma Berryhill, Flo Tanner, Betty Lawhorn, Pauline Gourd and others who prepared the food.

Veronica King Scott family

Letters

continued from page 2

Woman expresses opinion

Editor:

I read with much interest the article entitled "Chief Ellis and his administration hold meeting with Ceremonial leaders." I was surprised and saddened to find out that of the 44 tribal towns removed from our original home, only 16 ceremonial grounds remain, and Peach ground is struggling with membership as I write. To me, this is shameful and we should do our best to hold onto our culture. Much has been lost over time, but we can hold onto what is left by giving them our support and our presence. These leaders should be commended.

I want to say first of all, although I am a Mvskoke/Yuchi Christian, I totally support the significance of the grounds in the lives of the people. I absolutely do not feel it is wrong to participate in the ceremonials, and I encourage folks to become involved with it. Native ministers and ones in leadership in the churches also should encourage their people to search out their roots...not to go out and "convert" someone, but to forge friendships and let them know we're not against them. It was a European way of thinking that says if you are a Christian, you cannot belong to a ceremonial ground or vice versa, and this thinking created the schism between the ancient ways and being a Christian. We were taught to alienate ourselves from our own people if we adopt the Christian faith. That is not the Mvskoke way, and if you truly search the Scriptures, it is not the Christian way. Christianity was made synonymous with adopting a European way of life by the early missionaries and making us to forget our traditions and language. I do not believe Jesus (Hesaketvmvse) ever wanted this. You do not ever see white folks depriving themselves of their culture or feeling bad for being active with it (such as the German-American society of Tulsa, Norwegian club, people of Scottish descent, etc.). Believe me, they would not give up their traditions for the church, yet that is exactly what the missionaries and the government expected us native peoples to do.

I am proud to say my father who has since passed was Mvskoke, of the Alligator clan, and Coweta tribal town. My mother is Yuchi/Mvskoke, and we have found out her grandmother, Nicey Coonhead, was of the Bear clan, which I am glad to claim. I would not mind attending a ground, as I have two very young sons who can learn our ways. But I would not know which one to attend or how to find out which one is my hereditary ground. Any helpful comments can reach me at nativegirl17710@msn.com or P.O. Box 65, Sapulpa, OK 74067.

In conclusion, my interpretation of the Bible is this: we are not to separate ourselves from our own people, but to encourage and support each other whether we are in church or at the ceremonial ground. Jesus lived with His people, went to their weddings, danced with them, ate with them, worshipped with them on their terms, and at the end of His life, He went to His death believing His death would save them. This does not sound like One who wants to destroy my culture or language. Anyway, just wanted to let those men know I support the ceremonial grounds and their right to exist and continue into the future. We need to give them our support in every way possible.

Kathy Irwin, Sapulpa

Shop talk with Gerald

Hope everyone is having a good sports filled summer. So many games, so little time it seems. But whether you're a full fledged athlete who forgets about everything but that weekend's tournament or just some one who likes to laugh, joke and play a summer's evening volleyball game after church, just have fun doing it.

Interesting article in the July 4 edition of the Sunday *Daily Oklahoman*. The article, *Native Americans Overlooked*, by staff sportswriter Jenny Carlson, spotlighted Native American high school athletes who certainly have the skills to go to the next level, but unfortunately because of social and academic problems see their dreams fall to the wayside.

The article, which was well-written, explained not only how Native Athletes would quit college because of alcohol, home problems or felt they just didn't fit in, even talked about how Indian athletes would come home from college and be teased about being an *apple*. You know, we've all heard it, red on the outside, white on the inside. Or the crab philosophy about grabbing someone who may be having success and pulling him back down.

After reading the article, this mediocre athlete can't help but think back to his college days. Believe you me, I certainly wasn't there because of any college scholarship. The University of Oklahoma was my educational choice. Although I was fortunate enough to receive some financial help from the tribe and an academic scholarship, I also got a job at the library and did a little janitorial work to help pay for extra costs. As Indians always do, we, the OU Indian students, began to socialize and hang out together. One of the *skins*, who was first a part of this group in the early fall, was attending OU on a cross-country scholarship. I was quite impressed with his credentials and told him so. He didn't seem very talkative, nor did he seem to care for the attention. A full ride athletic scholarship is impressive anywhere! Anyway, after the first full week of classes were over, he was gone.

Other buddies of the circle said that he was just ready to go home, maybe he didn't like the school, or maybe it was the coach. Regardless of whatever his specific reason for leaving was, a free education was simply thrown away.

I'll allow myself a little time on the soapbox and say in a nice way, what a shame it was to just simply quit as this talented Indian athlete did. We, as Indian people, have just too much skill and ability to just simply let it all go because we don't like something that is only temporary.

Indian athletes, show the world what you got. Don't quit and allow outside influences always to shape you, your world, or your thinking. Because if you do, others will always control you. Ultimately, the blame for failure won't be on others, it will be all on you!

Tiger reflects back about a game for the ages

OKLAHOMA CITY — It truly was a game for the ages. Documented as the longest game in Oklahoma All Indian Men's Fast-Pitch Championship history, 19 innings of athletes playing hurt, sick, dehydrated in 103 degree weather in July, back in the summer of 1977.

The event of course was the annual Oklahoma All Indian Men's Fast pitch tournament in Oklahoma City. The tournament, which is currently in its 52nd year, is a tournament of national prominence and showcases Indian athletes from all around the country.

One survivor of that championship marathon contest of '77 was George Tiger, the starting pitcher for the Florida Seminoles. The team was made up of members from a team originally called the Haskell Indians. "Our coach forgot to take care of the entry deadline and the Florida team only had 2 players," said Tiger. "So we kind of jumped in there with them."

If the championship game wasn't long enough for Tiger and his teammates, the path they had to take just to reach it was.

"We played on a Friday night," remembers Tiger. "Unfortunately, in our first game we got beat by Turkey Springs."

Exposure to a tournament of this magnitude was nothing new to Tiger and his teammates. They were from all over and had been playing together for some time.

"We only played a couple of tournaments a year together,"

says Tiger. "Most of our players were from Kansas, California and Florida."

Although the team was made up from far and wide, their popularity was well known to the softball faithful having won this same tournament in 1973 by allowing the least amount of runs in tournament history. The team only gave up one run with a tournament bracket that included 100 teams that year.

"After the first loss," says Tiger of that '77 tournament, "we got together and had a team meeting. We knew we still had a chance, but it would be a big challenge."

The team would have to play 5 games on Saturday, only one loss away from elimination in this double elimination tournament. The team would buckle down and win all five. But there was still Sunday's round and the team would have to play 7 games in a row just to make it to the Championship. They played back to back to get to the Championship game where they faced the Sapulpa



Pictured above is Grover Wind and Bob White of Turkey Springs.

Bucks.

With the score deadlocked at one at the end of regulation play, 12 more innings would be played until Kenneth Tiger of the Bucks popped a shot up the middle driving in the runner from second base. The final score was 2-1. The Bucks won, but both teams received a standing ovation in a historic game for the ages.

Center hosts first ever heavyweight title fight

WETUMKA — The first ever no holds barred turn out. USA Native American Championship Title was held on Saturday, July 21. The event, *Thunder Rumble II*, was held at the Kialegee Family Center in Wetumka.

The Native American Championship Title, which was sanctioned by the United States Muay Thai Association (USMTA), was competed for by USMTA ranked competitors Tommy "Danger" Gouge and Redcloud Anquoe.

The contest saw Redcloud defeat Tommy Gouge in the first round by way of submission.

The event was held in part by Wolf Promotions, owned by John Wolf. He was quite pleased with the

"We were pleased with the turnout of our first Native American title fight," said Wolf. "We are planning to use this fight as a foundation for having other events in various areas throughout the Creek Nation."

Results of other fights included on the card were: John Fry defeated Logan Shirell by unanimous decision; Daniel Ramirez won over Randall Maluf by technical knock-out; Chuck Carr knocked out Eric Willis; David Tyler received a unanimous decision over Dusty

Miller; and Philip Bateman decisioned over Jeremy Knight.



Promoter John Wolf congratulates Redcloud Anquoe after winning the championship belt.



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E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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Creek ceremonial song to be included in Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

WASHINGTON D.C., — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will celebrate its Grand Opening on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Located on the fourth floor of the museum is the Preparation Theater program, a 13-minute presentation immersing viewers in the vibrancy and diversity of contemporary Native life and explores, from a Native perspective, the strength that different communities across the hemisphere derive from their connections to land, religion, traditional knowledge, self government, and self expression.

Overhead, images fill the 40-foot dome, transporting viewers to the vast reaches of the Arctic, the cool forests of the Northwest Coast, and the high plateaus of Bolivia. A center structure supports four additional screens, and emerging from the floor is a cast-acrylic "rock" that transforms from a rushing creek to a storyteller's fire. Surrounding visitors are objects from the collection that link to the stories. Among the tribal groups highlighted in the presentation are the Mi'kmaq (east), the Maya and Aymara (south), the Inupiat and Haida (north), and the Lakota, Muscogee-Creek, and Hopi (west).

The program is presented in a uniquely designed space that features sound, objective theater, and three projection surfaces, including a 360 degree dome. A portion of the music will be a stompdance song led by Creek Citizen Waylon Gray. The audio track is part of the Stompdance Songs of the Muscogee Nation, Volume I, recorded on July 18, 1999, at the Creek Nation Omniplex.



Physicians witness pure Muscogee culture



Native American doctors from all over the United States and Canada were recently treated to pure Muscogee (Creek) Culture. On Friday evening, July 30, the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center played host to the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP). The Association held its 33rd meeting in Tulsa, on July 25 through Aug. 1.

Participants were invited to a stompdance exhibition and a game of stickball. Clarence Tiger, left, of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground and Jimmy Deere, of Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground, explain the rules of stickball to the interested audience.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Developing Mind, Body, and Spirit: Focus on Native Adolescent Health". Typically the annual meeting hosts 300 to 400 participants.

photo by Gerald Wofford

Creek Association receives monies from National Council

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association received a \$41,750 check from the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

The check was presented on Tuesday, Aug. 3 during the association's monthly meeting. The funds will be used for the social services of the community, such as helping people in need of paying utility bills or medical assistance.

"We try to do so much," said Sue Morgan, Chairman of the Association, "because it is lacking here."

The Association, located on Southeast 29th street in Oklahoma City, tries to serve as many citizens as possible. This is not an easy task considering there are an estimated 4,000 Muscogee (Creek) people that live in the Oklahoma City metro area.

Shirlene Ade, Tukvptce District Representative and Ron Cleghorn, Tulsa District Representative, were in attendance to present the check.



Shirlene Ade, pictured left, presents Sue Morgan, OKC Association President, with a check on behalf of the National Council.

"I'm really proud of the Oklahoma City Creek Association," said Ade to the members of the Association. "I know you will continue to grow in the future and I am glad that we are able to help you. I know that our Creek Citizens will benefit from this."

The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association community building and gift shop is open on Tuesdays from 9 to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 to 6 p.m. The Association meets the first Tuesday of each month, with the

second Tuesday of the month being designated as Culture Night. For more information about the Oklahoma City Association, call (405) 605-2621.

Band thanks Creek Nation Festival

Editor:

On behalf of myself and my band we would like to thank you for inviting us to play this year's Creek Nation Music Festival. We were impressed with the organization and professionalism before and during this event. We play several large venues each year and yours is among one of the most well run that we play.

We would also like to commend Ruth Bible for the expertise and organization that she contributes to this event. She is great to work with and very skilled at this job.

Again, thank you for allowing us to play this festival and hopefully we will work together in the future.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Markham, Okmulgee

Creek Migration History

Editor:

My name is Neal Lynch. I am writing a paper on Creek migration history for the upcoming SAGE publication Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West. My goal is to focus more on the Creek people of today rather than dwelling too heavily on the past. Much has been written on warfare, conquest, and removal, but precious little on where the Creek people are today, where they have moved beyond Oklahoma, and what they have accomplished in the past 50 years.

I am just learning about things like the Relocation Program of the 1960's and the existence of Haskell Indian Nations University. This is exactly the kind of information I am hoping to find to present the story of late 20th century Creek people. Programs such as this explain why the Creeks have settled in areas other than Oklahoma, Georgia, and Alabama.

Another area of interest is the educational system and how Creek Culture is a factor in preparing the younger generations for life beyond the Nation.. I want to portray a modern view of the Creek Nation, and any resources and contacts you have to share are invaluable to my work and greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Neal Lynch, Brea, California

Jackson Barnett thanks Creek Nation

Editor:

My name is Jackson Barnett and my new position with the Creek Nation is Senior Services Manager. This is my first opportunity to express my thanks to many individuals as I spend my first week on the job.

I want to thank Mr. Perry Anderson in Personnel for this support and recommendation. I

thank Mr. Robert Jones of the National Council for his sponsorship through the Budget and Government Committee and to the final roll call vote by the Council on June 26, 2004. My thanks also to the Council members who gave me their vote. I also thank Mr. Claude Summer, Second Chief Berryhill, and Chief A.D. Ellis for their confidence and support. Thanks also to the people who came to shake my hand and tell me they were happy to have me aboard.

I feel a short summary of my background is in order. After high school in Arizona, I attended Bacone College. I was in the graduating class with my brother, Bill Barnett, Chubby Anderson, James Pratt, and National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola's brother. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree from Central State University, Edmond, on May 1987.

I served in the military of our country, wearing the uniform of the U.S. Navy for eight years active duty. I am happy to have served. I taught in the area of trade and Industrial Education, Community College and Adult Education Division in the Oklahoma City Public Schools since 1981.

I see the duties of Senior Services Manager as vast and varied. I will begin by trying to visit all community centers as soon as I can. Any endeavor requires people working together and pulling in the same direction to make it work. I ask for your help and cooperation in anything you and I may be involved in.

I have been afforded the opportunity to work with my Creek people and for that I am grateful. I repeat here what I have always said and thought, Nvk Omeyvt, Nvk Oceyvt, Ponsomekvtce. I speak the Creek Language. If you can, stop by and visit, Room 109. Vhauke Estofis Hauket Ares. Mvto. **Jackson Barnett, Okmulgee**

Citizen enjoys second chief article

Editor:

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the article by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. I'm learning old traditions that I have always wondered about. Please keep up the good and informative work with the articles and the newspaper. Reading and learning about the old ways is truly a way to preserve our heritage. Thank you for your work you put into our paper.

Sue Harjo-Wanna, Lawrence, Kansas

Former Senior Ms. thanks Creek Nation

Editor:

I would like to thank the Muscogee Creek Nation for giving me the opportunity to represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as their Senior Ms. during this past year. During my time as Senior Ms., I was able to visit several churches, community centers, elderly nutrition centers, schools,

camp and conferences. I was even able to do a video and a television spot with Chief Ellis. It was a wonderful year of experiences that I will never forget.

I would like to thank everyone for supporting me and my efforts to represent to Muscogee Nation. I want you all to keep supporting our heritage and specially our language. Be proud of who you are and remember the ways you were taught. I'm proud that my parents raised me the way they did and grateful that they instilled in me the old time ways. I never thought that at the age of 92, I would be so honored to represent my tribe in such a manner.

I encourage everyone to support the new MCN royalty and specialty the Senior Ms. Fannie Barnett. I know that she will do a wonderful job. I may not be wearing the MCN crown, but I am still working towards my greater crown in glory.

Blessings on Our Nation.

Katie Thomas Smith, Coweta

Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Lucas Taylor, managing editor
Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant
Gerald Wofford, photography/writer
Jennifer Taryole, staff writer
Carla Brown, graphic designer
Joshua Slane, reporter
Wilma Murphy, circulation

Office of the Principal Chief...

by A.D. Ellis

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation owns two companies. One is the Trade & Commerce Authority that operates mostly commercial operations, our travel plazas, the new imaging company and the farm authority. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) is the second business we own and is primarily the government contracts division with over 85 million dollars in federal contracts and is securing more. Both companies are governed by a Board of Directors with **Second Chief Berryhill** as chairman.

At the National Council Planning Session, July



27, 2004 the National Council requested a meeting with two employees of the MNBE in Executive Session at the request of Okmulgee Representative, **David Nichols**. This motion was to *exclude* the Principal Chief or Second Chief from this meeting. A secret discussion was then held, apparently dealing with our nation's issues. The two elected chiefs' should not have been excluded. Later the council called the Lighthorse Police into the secret session and again excluded the Chief and Second Chief. This is a tribal police force under my authority and I am chairman of the Lighthorse Commission. The council's conduct was a show of disrespect to the tribal administration and to the Chief's Office and the Second Chief. Last but not least, the two previous employees of MNBE who were interviewed by the National Council left a stack of papers that were distributed to all council members, knowing this was information concerning the Muscogee Nation owned company whose chairman is **Second Chief Berryhill** and involved govern-

ment contracts. I asked for a copy of this information and Hughes District Representative, **Lola Fields**, made a motion to *not allow the Chief or Second Chief* to see the papers until the council reviewed them. The council voted and agreed, with the exception of four representatives who said "*this is wrong.*"

This was a power-play by certain people who are elected to be legislators and are not elected to micro manage this nation or its business enterprises, which are managed by professional, proven business leaders.

I would urge all tribal citizens who want the three branches of government to work together toward a progressive future and move this nation forward to *make your voices heard.*

Quote of the Month: *When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child, when I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce etvlwvvlkvke. I am happy to say that this month has been a fruitful month for negotiations. Along with Mr. Allen Harjo, David Proctor and myself, we made a visit with the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. We met with their Housing Authority to see if we could draft a Memorandum of Agreement to assist our citizens in their boundary and we will assist their citizens in our boundaries. Hopefully, this will be a small step to assist all citizens in the future.

As you know, Mr. Jackson Barnett is our official Senior Services Director. Mr. Barnett came to me after he had read the last issue of the MCN paper and expressed a desire to have a Story Telling Time (Nak Onakoce) some time in the near future, so, be looking for the time and place.

It is my opinion that you as a citizen of this great Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be made aware of your past. When our elders use to



speak, they would chase us youngsters away. We hardly ever heard of our great past and sometimes I think that the Trail of Tears had a lot to do with it, because it was a shameful time. There are elders among us who know parts of our past and I feel it's important that each one of us share our part to the general citizenry. I have asked our most esteemed District Judge Mr. Patrick Moore to be the contributing author for the next few Opinions. Some things need more space and his will require a series. For instance, how many of you knew that during the revolutionary war the Creek Nation had a navy? What were the names of these ships? Did they fly a flag? How many engagements were they in? In a few months, you will be able to answer these questions and more. Here is his first rendition.

Muskoke History Series

By

Patrick E. Moore

The Bahama Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation in Nassau, Bahamas, in the August 2-5, 1791 edition printed the following "A new flag was displayed here on Wednesday, that of the Creek Nation, worn by the vessel carrying General Bowles and the Indian Chiefs to the American continent." The Creek flag was de-

scribed as a blue cross superimposed on a red background with a blue background occupying the upper lefthand corner. The blue background of the upper lefthand quadrant contained a sun with human features resembling an American Indian. There is a variation of this flag described in Spanish transcripts as a rectangle, divided in the middle with a diagonal cross in the center of one side and a sun with human features in the center of the other side. The first Creek flag may have been manufactured in London, England while several Chiefs were visiting British supporters of the Creek Nation in its struggle to remain in control of Creek lands east of the Mississippi River. During the late 1790's and until approximately 1803, Bahamian Customs were legally only to allow vessels flying this flag to enter Nassau with trade goods from the southeastern Indians.

-TO BE CONTINUED-



Education

National Junior Honor Society

OKLAHOMA CITY — David Bear, a freshman at Western Heights High School has met the criteria in the selection process for membership in the Western Heights Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

The National Junior Honor Society ranks as one of the most prestigious organizations. The honor society focuses on four key qualities: scholarship, service, leadership and character.



Bear

Bullett nominated for national youth conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jaymee Bullett, a student at Okmulgee High School, was nominated for the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law in Washington, D.C. Nominees must have a G.P.A. of 3.3 or higher. Bullett has maintained a 3.5 G.P.A. for the last three years. This is the fourth award that she has received this year.

The conference is Oct. 12 through 17. The total cost of the trip, which gives her practice and experience that she needs for law school, is \$1,729.

Bullett is accepting any donations. Send donations to: Jaymee Bullett, 1503 N. Creek Pl., Okmulgee, OK 74447.



Bullett

Bright kids study marine biology at Duke's Marine Lab

DURHAM, N.C. — William Doty of Henryetta has attended the Duke University Talent Identification Program for the third year.

For three weeks, students in grades eight through ten studies coastal, behavioral or physiological ecology at the Duke University Marine Lab. This program specializes in hands on marine studies with extensive lab time and substantial fieldwork in surrounding marshes and on research vessels.

The 2004 Marine Lab program reflects a coordinated team-caught approach to studying behavioral, coastal and physiological ecology, marine zoology and oceanography. Six summer studies programs were offered by Duke TIP.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit, educational organization designed to identify and develop academic talent. Since 1980, over one million students from all parts of the world have taken part in a Duke TIP program. The program receives support from student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

William Doty is the son of Dave Doty and Susan Doty of Okemah. He the grandson of Percy and Ladonna Sharp of Okemah.

U.S. Department of Education release awards
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The University of Oklahoma has been selected to receive \$399,743 and Cross Culture Educational Center will receive \$447,168 for the first year of a three-year grant to improve the quality of Indian education and opportunities for Indian students.

"President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act is based on the premise that every child can learn and that every child deserves a high quality education, including Indian Children," said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. "These Indian education grants further this goal by providing training and professional development to teachers and administrators in these communities, thereby improving academic achievement."

The grant award is part of the Office of Indian Education's Professional Development program, which trains qualified individuals to become teachers and administrators in Indian communities. The program also provides resources to improve the skills of qualified Indians who serve in the education field. Further information, visit their website at www.ed.gov.

Births

Mvhayv Cheyenne Felix

TULSA — Mvhayv Cheyenne Felix was born on June 11 at St. John's Hospital to Stephanie Crawford and Justin Felix.

She weighed 6 pound and 7 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Tina Vanwoudenbirg and David and Dee Crawford.

Paternal grandparents are Karen Felix and the late Dennis Felix, all of Sapulpa.

Mvhayv is a member of the Wind Clan.



Felix

Society

Couple to celebrate 35th anniversary

MUSKOGEE — Louie and Kathleen Jackson will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on Aug. 23.

The couple married on Aug. 23, 1969 at Mary Lee Clark United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City.

The couple have two



L. and K. Jackson

children, Kelley Jackson of Muskogee and Kim Jackson of Tulsa. They have one grandson, Tony Jackson.

Louie works for the Sequoyah High School as the Dean of Students. Kathleen also works at Sequoyah High School as a teacher's assistant.

The couple reside in Muskogee and are both active members of the Fife Memorial United Methodist Church.

Litsey named association congressional fellow

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Richard O. Litsey, Hearing Office Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals at the Social Security Administration, has been named a Congressional Fellow for 2004-05 by the American Political Science Association (APSA) in Washington, D.C. He was one of eight federal executives in the nation selected for this prestigious program.

The fellows, who are early to mid-career professionals working in political science, journalism, the federal government, and health policy, were chosen on a competitive basis from nominations by academic and sponsoring institutions.

Litsey is the 47th executive from the Social Security Administration to have been named a fellow during the history of this program.

The fellows will complete a wide-range of activities designed to enrich their knowledge of the policy-making process and foster a better understanding of how legislative branch activities relate to the mission of their executive agencies and departments.

The fellowship was established in 1953 by the APSA and is generously funded by a grant from MCI. It is additionally supported by Congressional Quarterly, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Asia Foundation, the Department of State, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and panel, chaired by Jeffery R. Biggs, Ph.D.

Boy celebrates four birthday with Spongebob theme

OKEMAH — Brock Hicks celebrated his fourth birthday on July 6 with a Spongebob theme at his home.

He is the son of Carrie Jacobs and Jeremiah Hicks.

Maternal grandparents are Patsy and Frank Jacobs. Paternal grandparents Jim and Jean Hicks.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Pauline Crawford and Jose Rameriz of Chandler, AZ and Betty Jacobs of Tulsa and the late Sam Jacobs.

Paternal great grandparents are Sissy Lewis of Hanna and the late Jonas Artussee and Eliza and Houston Hicks of Henryetta.

Brock has one brother, Bradley, age 9, and one sister, Alisha, age 5.



Hicks

First Nations to hold Native Food Summit 2004

Recipe for change

WASHINGTON, DC—During the last several decades, tribal elders, tribal leaders, public health experts and economic development practitioners watched as many Native food systems have broken down. Traditional sustenance was eradicated as the life and livelihood of tribes underwent drastic, often violent, change in the 19th century.

Today, those living in more remote areas of the country often experience higher food prices and limited selections of fresh nutritional foods.

To rediscover how important

agricultural traditions are to Native Americans, the First Nations Development Institute is holding the 2004 Native Food Summit, 9-11 September in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "The Native Food Summit will provide a unique opportunity for Indian Country and anyone interested in Native food systems to learn about what's happening with the Native food movement," explained Sherry Salway Black, senior vice president, First Nations. The Native Food Summit 2004 is a two and a half day initiation into Native food, how to build sustainable food systems, and the most effective ways to market those "fruits" of Indian Country's labor and land for both social and economic benefit. Presenters include native chefs, food historians, public health educators, marketing and distribution experts, foundation representatives and Native community practitioners.



These experts are scheduled to present: Cooking demonstrations, Lessons learned from case studies where local Native food systems were successfully built, workshops on the marketplace and business and Lectures on culture, diet and health. For countless generations, traditional, wholesome foods have been the primary ingredients in Native American cooking.

Traditional foods were often considered "medicine" that helped maintain strength and health and every level. Native agriculture was community-based. Every community member took part in the responsibilities necessary for reaping harvests' reward-clearing the land, planting and harvest, and then, processing and sharing the results of their combined labor. Now increasingly, Native communities recognize that healthy food systems, all the process involved

in getting food and agricultural products into production and on to the consumer, are crucial to healthy Native communities. Tribes and rural Native communities are working to renew healthy food systems. Programs operated by Native communities are regaining control of local land assets, implementing traditionally sound organic food production techniques, expanding tribal outreach to improve knowledge about healthy eating, and deepening community understanding of the Native connection to Mother Earth and her resources, as well as the spiritual responsibilities for both that run deep in Native culture. "The traditional Native diet has sustained Indian Country's health and spirits for centuries," said Loretta Barrett Oden, Native chef, restaurateur, historian, and scheduled presenter. "These same foods and food-growing applications are critical to the pres-

ervation of Native ways and practices. Not surprisingly, some of the popular non-Native diets today have embraced many traditionally Native foods and dishes." First Nations Development Institute's Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative, with primary funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is working at the local level with Native communities to help them renew their Native food systems. Components of these projects include health education to starting community organic farms to food processing ability in incorporating technology for marketing and education. Other Food Summit funders include Ben & Jerry's, The Cooperative Foundation, The Spirit Foundation, Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation, Potawatomi Casino, Indian Summer Festival and USDA. The Native Food Summit is being held in conjunction with Milwaukee's Indian Summer Festival, one of the largest, most popular Indian festivals. The celebration features traditional arts, music, and dance demonstrations. Participants can see a Native food demonstration sponsored by First Nations. On September 9 and 10, attendees may want to catch Peter Buffet's music and dance production, Spirit- The Seventh Fire. As much live concert as epic film, Spirit-The Seventh Fire is a voyage of discovery built around Native American dance, music, and storytelling. For more information on First Nations and its programs and to register for the 2004 Food Summit on-line, go to www.firstnations.org, or call 540-371-5615 to request a conference brochure and registration form. First Nations Development Institute was founded in 1980 with the mission to assist Indigenous peoples to control and develop their assets and build the capacity to direct their economic futures in ways that fit their cultures.

Doctor's Note: Back to school time

From the office of Dr. Lawrence Vark, Division of Health Chief Medical Officer

OKMULGEE — It's back to school time once again. Children and their parents may have some health related tasks to complete before the school year starts.

Making sure that your child has all of his/her immunizations up to date prior to the beginning of school is very important. Take your child's immunization card to the doctor's office with you.

Another important task is the school sport physicals, these are required for your children to participate in school sports activities. Call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation clinics now to schedule these physicals. The clinics generally do not see school physicals on a walk-in basis, so make your appointments now to be sure you can get them done by the school's deadline. If you are not sure of deadlines your schools athletic director

should be able to answer those questions for you.

Practice sessions start in the very hot days of our Oklahoma summer. Athletes may want to begin increasing their outdoor activities before practices start to get acclimated to the heat. It is vital that athletes training in this type of weather have a good fluid intake to prevent dehydration. Athletes should start drinking fluids before practice starts and replace fluids during and after practice. Water is a great replacement source, but some of the commercial fluid replacement products also have electrolytes to replace those lost by sweating. Salt tablets are generally not recommended.

On behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System, we wish everyone an enjoyable and safe back to school season!

Tobacco Prevention seeks ATS participants

OKMULGEE — In an effort to better understand the effects of smoking in the Muscogee (Creek) population, the Tobacco Prevention Program will be conducting a comprehensive Adult Tobacco Survey within the Creek Nation boundaries.

Tobacco holds a special status that is demonstrated in the beliefs and practices of some tribal members. Tobacco has many medicinal, spiritual, and practical uses. This survey will aid us in gathering tobacco specific data related to the Muscogee (Creek) population.

It is important to further evaluate the reasons for habitual use of commercial tobacco abuse and to reveal other tobacco related information. This survey was developed to aid in the development of a comprehensive and preventative cessation program. Creek citizens must be 18 years old or older. Each participant will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate for their time and contribution. For more information contact Julie Looney at 918-756-6231.

Housing Authority of the Creek Nation 2004 Program Activity Report

HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM				Fiscal Year starting Oct 03			
	FEB 04	JAN 04	DEC 03	NOV 03	OCT 03	YTD	
APPLICATIONS							
RECEIVED	15	10	14	5	13	42	
APPROVED	8	9	1	3	9	22	
HOUSED	—	5	—	15	1	21	

Source: HACN Monthly Reports

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT			Fiscal Year starting Oct 03			
	FEB 04	JAN 04	DEC 03	NOV 03	OCT 03	YTD
ACQUISITION PROGRAM						
HOUSES PURCHASED	5	1	—	3	1	10
HOUSES APPROVED FOR PURCHASE	6	6	—	—	—	12
NEW CONSTRUCTION						
UNITS COMPLETED	—	—	9	—	—	9
SITES COMPLETED/PURCHASED	10	—	—	—	—	10
TURKEY PROJECT UNITS	70 Pending					

Source: HACN Monthly Reports

NAHASDA HOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM				Fiscal Year starting Oct 03			
	FEB 04	JAN 04	DEC 03	NOV 03	OCT 03	YTD	
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES							
APPLICATIONS REC'D (Private Homes)	7	6	8	3	5	29	
WORK ORDERS RECEIVED	25	41	30	34	34	164	
Total Repairs	4	6	4	7	13	34	
Minor Repairs	27	35	34	27	63	186	
SCOPE'S OF WORK COMPLETED	24	34	26	29	62	175	
FINAL INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	58	41	33	40	30	202	
FORCE ACCOUNT (Minor Repairs)	Note: Jobs received may contain multiple tasks						
JOBS RECEIVED	69	116	79	80	71	415	
JOBS COMPLETED	53	96	67	65	57	338	
PLUMBING	49	105	58	57	81	351	
CONSTRUCTION	19	22	21	22	19	103	

Source: HACN Monthly Reports

LOW RENT PROGRAM		Units occupied per site during February 2004				
	Ocmulgee	Orecozhah	Eufaula	Ovameh	TOTAL	
UNITS OCCUPIED PER SITE	60	37	31	33	161	
UNITS UNDER REPAIR	40	22	10	20	92	
UNITS COMPLETED	18	9	—	—	27	

Source: HACN Monthly Reports

Transit Authority Survey

Okmulgee — The June edition of the Muscogee Nation News contained an article pertaining to the establishment of an Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority. This is a great opportunity for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and it's citizens. The survey form below is vital to this project and the information will enable the Transit Authority plan out a program that will provide for the greatest needs in all areas. Please fill out the survey form and return to: Ben Chaney, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The deadline for survey submissions is August 31.

Okmulgee Needs Foster Parents

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee county department of human services needs foster parents to sign up immediately so that they can take part in the August 16 - September 16 training. Any individual interested in becoming a foster parent will receive competency-based pre-service training that clearly defines the requirements and challenges of foster care.

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is searching for adoptive parents for children of all ages, especially those six and over. For more information please contact Pat Wilson, Rhonda Dickerson, or Carol Compton at 918-752-2000 or 1-800-551-1582.

Wellbriety Celebration Day

GLENPOOL — There is a Wellbriety Celebration Day September 11, starting at 10 a.m. and running until sun-down. In conjunction with this there will be a wellbriety pow-wow running from 2 p.m. until midnight. There will be fun activities for children ages 2 to 20, including food, sports, storytelling, crafts, and a magician. A Lakota Rose Run will include several running teams. A meal of grilled hotdogs, cheezits, sugarless koolaid, and cookies will be provided.

Social Dance

WASHINGTON, DC — On September 21 the National Congress of American Indians and the American Indian Society will be hosting a cultural exchange for tribal groups that will be gathered in Washington, DC during the week of the grand opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The opening of the NMAI is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Native peoples to come together to celebrate the vibrancy and longevity of our native cultures.

All groups desiring to participate in the cultural exchange by dance, song, or other traditions should contact the NCAI to sign up for a 10 minute time allocation. As sharing our cultures in celebration is the main focus of the event, we encourage invitational and other participatory activities. The social dance will begin when the Museum's opening ceremony concludes at approximately 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to sign up please contact Jarnie Gomez at the NCAI at 202-466-7767 or jgomez@ncai.org.

School Clothing Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care is continuing to accept applications for the School Clothing Program.

This year, unlike previous years, there are two school

clothing programs available, one with income guideline restrictions and one without income guideline restrictions.

Applications may be picked up at your nearest tribal community center or call (800) 205-3705 or (918) 732-7680.

Applicants must be a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, must be enrolled in school, and must submit income verification to determine which program you qualify for.

Marshall Family Reunion

WETUMKA — A family reunion for the descendants of Mandy Herron and Lewis Marshall will be held at the

Wetumka Indian Baptist Church on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6, beginning at noon. Each attending family member is requested to bring a covered dish, door prize, and a 2 liter bottle of pop. For more information please contact Karen Powell at 918-652-4584.

Watson Family Reunion

STROUD — The Watson family will be having a reunion at the Sac and Fox complex Saturday September 11, starting at 11 a.m. It will be a pot luck dinner.

For more information contact Pete Riley at 241-3123.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TRANSIT AUTHORITY

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

8-17-04

The purpose of this survey is to accurately reflect the transportation needs of the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. If you would benefit from a public transportation system, please complete this survey and estimate usage and times as correctly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this important survey.

1. Tribal member ☐ Non Tribal Member ☐

2. County

3. Age 0-10 ☐ 11-20 ☐ 21-40 ☐ 41-60 ☐ 61-70 ☐ 71-80 ☐ 81-90 ☐ 91+ ☐

4. Nearest Community Center

5. Please indicate expected travel needs each week by specifying destination and checking the day of the week and type of need.

Travel reason	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Destination
Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

6a. If your travel needs have specific arrival times, please indicate the approximate time you need to be at your destination.

Reason	A.M.							P.M.						non specific
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Work														
Medical														
Community														
Social														
School														
Other														

6b. If your travel has specific return times, please indicate the approximate times.

Reason	A.M.						P.M.						non specific	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5		6
Work														
Medical														
Community														
Social														
School														
Other														

7. Would you require a bus with handicap accessibility?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Other comments

Please return completed survey to your community center or mail to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Ben Chaney, Transportation Planner

Thank you for taking time to fill out this very important survey

July District Court filings

Protective Orders:

- KNIGHT: Susan V. WALTER: Dudley
- RILEY : Christina V. BRITT: Johnathan
- JACKSON: Carressa V. HARJO: Earnest
- JAMES: Doretha V. WATASHE: Sylvester, Sr

Criminal Misdemeanor:

- MCN v. AQUIRRE: Roger
ct; 1: Public Intoxication
MCN v. MORROW: Travis
ct; 1: Public Intoxication
- MCN v. COOPER: Joe Don
ct; 1: Disorderly Conduct

TRAFFIC:

- MCN v. HILLS: Heather Ann
Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. GRIFFIN: Rocky
Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. WARREN: Clarence
Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. WARREN: Clarence
Open Receptacle Containing Alcoholic Beverage
- MCN v. HOLT: Chris
No Driver License
- MCN v. HOLT: Chris
No Insurance
- MCN v. TEEL: Jimmy
Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. WEBB: Cassandra
Expired Tag
- MCN v. WEBB: Cassandra
Driving w/o a license
- MCN v. MCEVERS: Vickie
Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. ASH: Casey
Disorderly Conduct

Family Domestic:

- TCSE ex rel FOLSOM: Paula v. OSBORNE: Richard, III

Divorce:

- YOUNG: Tonya v. YOUNG: Jon Cornell
- THOMPSON: Augustine v. THOMPSON: Larry, Sr.
- JENNINGS: Robert v. JENNINGS: Teresa
- JOHNSON: Celesta v. JOHNSON: Michael
- STATUM: Myra v. STATUM: Gerald

Civil/Small Claims:

- LIEVSAY: Beula Dianna
Name Change
- LOWE: Leslie v. FISH: Jonathan
Petition to Establish Paternity, Custody, Visitation, &
Child Support
- BUTLER: Leandrea Rawell
Petition to Establish Paternity
- KALLOS: Brittany & Brook
Name Change

- ROYAL FINANCE V. WILSON: Lucinda
Small Claims
- EDMERSON: Angela v. MONTGOMERY: Larry
Petition to Establish Paternity, Custody, Visitation &
Child Support

Legal Notices

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2004-37

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: In Re Custody of Lysie Hokose Wilson,
A Minor Child.

Affidavit For Service By Publication

Shane M. Wiggans, of lawful age, being first duly sworn,
upon oath deposes and states as follows:

1. I am the Legal Clinician for the Petitioner in this action.
2. I have followed all leads available to me, and found that the information that is available to me is insufficient for the purposes of locating the Respondent in an attempt to give proper service upon him.
3. I hereby swear or affirm that I have made a meaningful search of all reasonably available sources to ascertain the whereabouts of the Respondent, and that with due diligence, service cannot be made upon the Respondent by any method other than publication.

/s/ Shane M. Wiggans, Legal Clinician for Petitioner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of July,
2004

/s/ Dyan Bramwell, Notary Public

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2004-37

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: In Re Custody of Lysie Hokose Wilson,
A Minor Child.

Service of Summons By Publication Notice

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Mark Edward Fisher
TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for Petition to Establish Paternity in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District, State of Oklahoma, Case No. D2004-13, styled In re Custody of Lysie Hokose Wilson. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled custody of the minor child and past and future child support consideration.

You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the Petitioner on or before the 15th day of September, 2004, or the allegations contained in the Petition will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her Petition.

Given under my hand and seal this 14th day of July,
2004.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District, Oklahoma

/s/ Tobie King, Deputy
/s/ Charles H. Tripp, Attorney for Petitioner, MCN
University of Tulsa/Muscogee (Creek) Nation Law Clinic
407 South Florence Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104
(918) 631-5799
Fax (918) 631-5798
/s/ Shane M. Wiggans, Student Clinician for Petitioner,
MCN 319

University of Tulsa/Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian
Law Clinic
407 South Florence Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104
(918) 631-5799
Fax (918) 631-5798

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2004-44

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: In The Matter of Name Change of
Brittany Louise Kallos and Brooke Leanne Kallos, Minors

Notice of Filing Petition for Change of Name

STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Whom it may concern
Kimberly McNac, next friend to Brittany Louise Kallos, born July 28, 1991 and Brooke Leanne Kallos, born July 19, 1993, has filed a Petition in the above Court to have both minor's names changed from Brittany Louise Kallos to Brittany Louise McNac and Brooke Leanne Kallos to Brooke Leanne McNac and the same will be heard in the courtroom of Judge Patrick R. Moore, located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courthouse, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 31st day of August, 2004 at 10:00 o'clock am, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file written protest in this case prior to the date set for hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 15th day of July, 2004.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District, Oklahoma

/s/ Tobie King, Deputy

/s/ Kimberly Appelman, MCN # 324
Student Clinician for Petitioners
The University of Tulsa, College of Law
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Indian Law Program

Where do the 2004 Presidential Candidates Stand on Native American Affairs

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a public interest founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences and testimonies of Friend (called Quakers) to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital. People of many religious backgrounds participate in this work. FCNL's staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of thousands of people to advocate social and volunteer work with a nationwide network of thousands of people to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government.

Tribal Sovereignty

President George Bush: I believe the government should allow Tribes greater control over their lives, land and destiny.

Sen. John Kerry: Recent Supreme Court cases have addressed jurisdictional issues on reservations. I will work to foster cooperation between Tribes and State to develop government-to-government relationships that respect both governments. State, local, and tribal governments all share common purposes to administer justice and provide basic services. States and tribes often share geographic borders as well as economic and social systems. I believe that working together, the federal, as well as state, local, and tribal governments can fashion innovative solutions to better serve citizens.

Mismanagement of Trust Fund Accounts

President George Bush: White House spokesman Taylor Gross said the Bush Administration, "supports the legislation that was passed." This statement is in reference to a legislative rider attached into the fiscal year 2004 Interior Appropriations Bill to block federal spending on the historic accounting of mismanaged trust fund accounts.

Health Disparities

President George Bush: To ensure the future success of America's tribal communities, my administration is committed to improving education, increasing employment and economic development, and ensuring better access to health and human services for all American Indians and Alaska natives. Government-wide, we proposed in the 2004 Budget to spend over \$11 billion on Native American programs.

Sen. John Kerry: The Indian Health Service is severely underfunded, and I support preventative care for Indian Country, including initiatives for diabetes and cancer screenings.

Crime/Tribal Law Enforcement

Sen. John Kerry: Many law enforcement agencies in Indian Country are under staffed and under funded. As President, I will support increased funding to law enforcement on Indian land to address high crime rates by providing more resources for officer hiring and retention, and drug control and youth crime prevention. As President, I also will seek increased funding for tribal courts. I will work to improve services to American Indian victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Education

President George Bush: The Department of Education's Office of Indian Education is working to implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 within the Native American community. Indian tribes, schools, and local education agencies that serve American Indian and Native Alaska children will have access to nearly \$122 million in grants to improve education opportunities. The Department of the Interior's 2004 program includes over \$49 million for American's tribal colleges and universities. This investment will help American Indian Students reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

Sen. John Kerry: The BIA school system is only one of two federally

operated school systems. With an estimated over \$2 billion backlog for school repairs in these BIA schools, I support repairing and building new schools for this country's American Indian Children. I also support increased funding for tribal colleges and I have written to President Bush, opposing his efforts to limit set-asides for tribal colleges.

Economic Development and or Gaming

President George Bush: On my way to visit Asia, I stopped in Alaska, a place of tremendous natural beauty and important energy resources. I met with many Alaskans, including native leaders who want to preserve the grandeur of their state while carefully developing the energy beneath a small fraction of it. New technology makes this possible. Our national security makes it urgent.

Alaskan know firsthand that modern technology allows us to bring oil to the surface cleanly and safely, while protecting our environment and wildlife. We should listen to Alaskans who support exploring ANWR in a safe and clean way.

Sen. John Kerry: I will help increase loans to Native-owned small businesses through the Small Business Administration. In the Senate, I have cosponsored the Native American Small Business Development Act. This legislation would create a permanent Office of Native American Affairs at SBA and would create a new grant program to assist American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Tribal Role in Homeland Security

Sen. John Kerry: I recognize that with the vast expanses of lands that Native Americans control and manage and which often lie on this country's borders, tribes need to be a partner in protecting this country and an active participants in our efforts to improve homeland security.

Supreme Court recognizes congressional authority over Indian affairs

By Ben Welch (American Indian Report July-2004)

Remember U.S. v. Lara: IT SHOULD go down in history as one of the most important victories for American Indian sovereignty.

As the United States Supreme Court wrapped up its 2003-04 term last months, many Indian law experts and advocated agreed that U.S. v. Lara ranks as one of the most important decisions the court made this term, and perhaps, one of the most important decisions for American Indian tribes in a decade.

The Court issued its opinion in April, ruling that Congress has the authority to recognize Indian tribe's inherent power to prosecute nonmember Indians for certain crimes committed on reservations not their own.

The ruling overturned the Court's Duro decision, where the Court held that Indian tribes no longer have such inherent authority to prosecute nonmember Indians. Congress responded to Duro by amending the Indian Civil Rights Act and restoring "the inherent right of Indian tribes...to exercise criminal jurisdiction over all Indians." The Amendment to the ICRA has been left some crimes unpunished.

While many tribal leaders would rather have independent, self-determinative governments, given recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on Indian sovereignty, those leaders would rather remain subject to congressional power than the power of the Court.

"I think the tribes' view, generally these days, is that they would rather have their sovereignty in Congress' lap," says Riyaz Kanji, a partner in the firm of Kanji & Katzen who coauthored an

amicus brief for the National Congress of American Indians in the Lara case.

As surprising and encouraging as the Court's opinion is, those following cases currently in the lower courts know that in the coming months the Supreme Court will likely have more supple targets towards which to direct attacks on inherent tribal sovereignty. While the Supreme Court may be wary of undermining the plenary power of Congress, certain justices may have no qualms with finding that tribal prosecutions of nonmembers Indians violate the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

One of the most interesting, and perhaps most dangerous, questions the Court might grapple with in its next term or thereafter is whether the power to prosecute nonmembers Indians, but not non-Indians, violates the right to equitable treatment under the law. In lower federal courts, some nonmembers Indians prosecuted in tribal court are already claiming that it is unfair to subject them to tribal prosecution while a suspect who is not Indian will never face tribal prosecution for a crime committed on a reservation.

Guest warns that any nonmembers Indian who argues that tribal prosecution violates equal protection is oblivious to the consequences. If such an argument succeeds, and tribes cannot prosecute nonmembers Indian, then the federal government is more likely to step in and carry out the prosecution, then the federal government is more likely to step in and carry out the prosecution. Under the Indian Civil Rights Act, Indian tribes can only sentence defendants to maximums of one year in prison and \$5,000 in fines. Federal laws, however, has no such restrictions, which explains

why Billy Jo Lara did not dare contest the validity of his tribal prosecution.

Lara also represents a ringing success for the Tribal Supreme Court Project, a joint project of the NCAI and NARF that seeks to advocate for Indian interests at the Supreme Court level. Participants in the project played an instrumental role in the Lara case by filing two important amicus briefs. The court cited both briefs: Justice Stephen Breyer cited NAEF's brief in the majority opinion, and Justice Clarence Thomas cited the NCAI brief in his concurrence.

"One of the primary focuses of the Tribal Supreme Court Project is to coordinate tribal resources to be as effective as possible in making sure our briefs get read," Guest says. "With numerous amicus briefs, we're not going to get our message across. We can coordinate all of the many resources and utilize them in such a way that everyone gets heard and there's consistency in the message."

While Justice Thomas may have cited NCAI's brief in his concurrence, he did so while advocating for a complete reanalysis of federal Indian law. Although Justice Thomas may have cited NCAI's brief in his concurrence, he did so while advocating for a complete reanalysis of federal Indian law. Although Thomas may have cited NCAI's brief in his concurrence, he did so while advocating for a complete reanalysis of federal Indian law, he and the eight other Supreme Court justices will eventually confront a case in which a nonmember Indian claims tribal prosecution violates the equal protection and due process guarantees of the Constitution. Such a case has the potential to un-fix the Duro fix.

Words of the Elders

by Tim Thompson, Cultural Advisor

Pomvcolvke sehokof etempunahoyet okat, nakvtekat, etem mvrakket ayvhes makakvetos, Mvmakavte mucvnettiv mvn hecet svpakletos. Naken okakvute, kowentvkerrievketos. Nvk hvmken hecvkat punvkvt ponsumker vyepetos. Vcolvke tokakat, punvkat sumket onowat momosen Este Cate seko hakettos, wacenvt makvhes.



Hiyomen hopetake eckvike toweyat Cuko Rvkko, Mekusvpkv Cuko, momen pon liketv tis estvmin fulleyis hopetaketat Mvsko ke essempunayet owakvhes.

Translation:

Through the years our elders have talked about many things. One thing that they have talked about is the expectation for everything to change. Today we see this.

What did the elders mean when they talked about changes? When we look around today we see our languages slowly vanishing. The elders said when our languages disappear the U.S. Government is going to say, "There are no longer any Native Americans."

So when you're at Church, at your Ceremonial Grounds, or even at home, use our languages so that our children will be able to carry them on.

TOTKV MOCVSE - New Fire: Creek FolkTales by Earnest Gouge

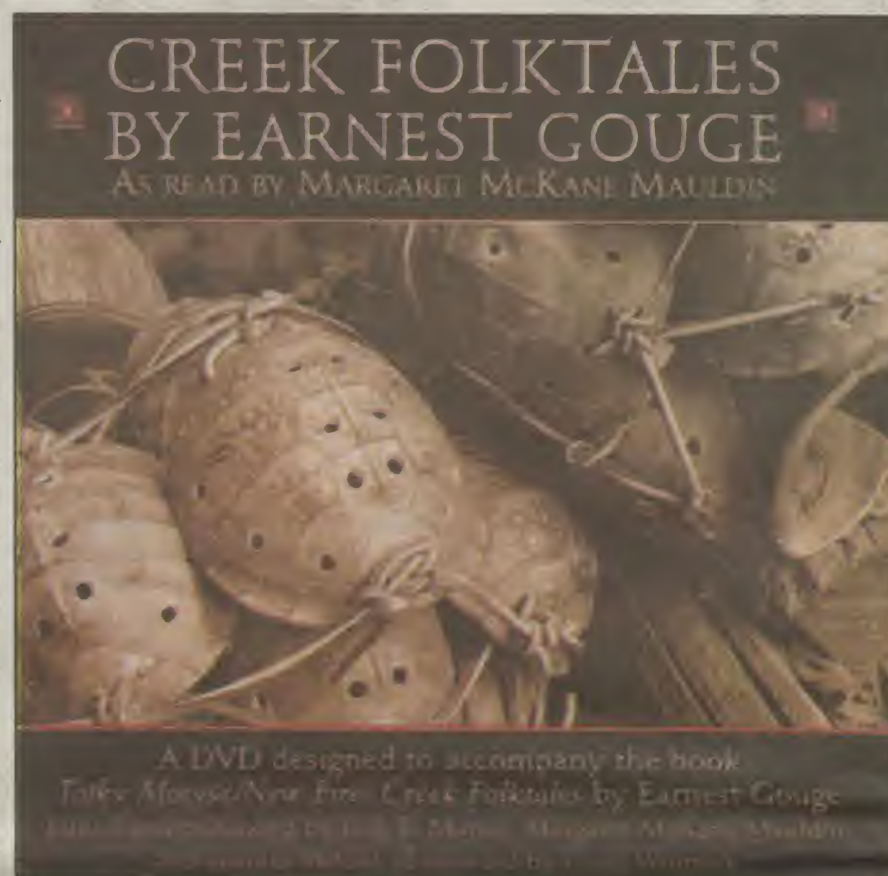
NORMAN — In May of 2004, the University of Oklahoma Press published a book and DVD containing 29 Creek (Muskogee) stories by Earnest Gouge, born in Indian Territory around 1865. The book contains side-by-side Creek and English versions of the stories.

The DVD is being sold separately and contains recordings of Margaret Mauldin reading the stories in Creek, with subtitles in English. Proceeds from these titles will go to Felix Gouge on behalf of the Gouge family.

Totkv mocvse (new fire) is a term used for the ceremonial fire marking the rebirth of a tribal town. We hope this work will rekindle interest and pride in the Creek language and in Earnest Gouge and other keepers of Creek traditions.

Earnest Gouge died at about the age of ninety, after his younger brother Jack. He was hit by a car while riding a horse, finally succumbing to his injuries on September 4, 1955. To the best of our knowledge, these are the only writings he left, though he also dictated three Creek texts about ball-games and his tribal town for Mary R. Haas (Haas 1939). He is buried facing his ceremonial ground.

A website, www.wm.edu/linguistics/creek/gouge/index.html, is designed to provide additional materials relating to the stories, including images of the original documents, typescripts of these, and interlinear versions of the stories with information for students of the language.



Comparing Native American dance: stompdance and powwow

by Joshua Slane

When a person thinks of Native American

Dancing they generally think one of two things, either Stomp Dancing or Powwows. But not many people really know the difference between the two.



A powwow is a type of social gathering. In a powwow the dancers dance clockwise, often times in brightly colored clothing. And while many Creek

citizens dance powwow it is not part of the tradition among the Creek Tribe. Instead it is a tradition among the plains and northern tribes, among which are the Shawnee, Miami, Yuchi, and Seminole.

Stomp Dancing, however, is a tradition within the Muskogee and Cherokee Tribe, though the Muskogee have the largest number of grounds. In a Stomp Dance, the dancers sometimes dress up, as is seen in a dance like the Ribbon Dance held the Friday before the Green Corn Festival, but many times do not. Also, the dancers dance counterclockwise, in a symbolic representation of how meaningless time truly is. Also, medicine is often taken at a Stomp Dance.

Stomp Dance is also more rules regulated, alcohol is disallowed as it is a sacred event. People are encouraged to keep themselves pure and have a clean mind during the time they are preparing for the Stomp Dance. While still photography is generally accepted, few stomp grounds will allow their dances to be recorded in a video format.

But despite the differences between the two there is a good degree of common ground. Spectators, as long as they behave in an honorable fashion are welcome at both gatherings.

Both types of dance celebrate the Native American heritage. So whether you Stomp Dance or Powwow, or even if you just watch, always remember your culture, your heritage, and your people.





Alabama Indian Baptist Church
Route 1
Weleetka, OK 74880

Arbeka Baptist Church
Route 2 Box 221-C
7101 Lob Lolly Rd.
Weleetka, OK 74880

Belvin Baptist Church
310 N. Mission
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Bemo Indian Baptist Church
13315 S. 73rd E.
Tulsa, OK 74008

Big Arbor Indian Baptist
HC 62 Box 137
Eufaula, OK 74432

Big Cussetah Methodist Church
P.O. Box 282
Morris, OK 74445

Bird Creek Baptist Church
Route 1
Weleetka, OK 74880

Broken Arrow Baptist Church
204 W. Urbana
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Buckeye Creek Baptist Church
Route 2 Box 221-C
Okemah, OK 74859

Butler Creek Church
2703 Esteell
Muskogee, OK 74401

Cedar River Baptist Church
524 E. Poplar
Holdenville, OK 74848

Community Baptist Church
P.O. Box 225
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Community Baptist Church
420 E. 7th St.
Bristow, OK 74010

Deepfork Hillabee Baptist Church
P.O. Box 264
Checotah, OK 74426

Grave Creek Church
P.O. Box 32
Henryetta, OK 74437

Greenleaf Baptist Church
P.O. Box 98
Castle, OK 74883

Hickory Ground #1 Church
Route 2 Box 425
Henryetta, OK 74437

Hickory Ground #2 Church
Route 2 Box 79
Henryetta, OK 74437

High Springs Baptist Church
Route 1 Box 49
Okemah, OK 74859

Hillabee Baptist Church
113 N. Newhaven
Tulsa, OK 74115

Hutche Chuppa Baptist Church
Route 1 Box 76
Weleetka, OK 74880

Indian Fellowship Baptist Church
P.O. Box 758
Oakhurst, OK 74050

Liberty Faith Church
P.O. Box 931
Glenpool, OK 74033

Little Coweta Church
General Delivery
Stidham, OK 74461

Little Cussetah Church
P.O. Box 1432
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Little Cussetah Church
Route 3 Box 1555
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Little Quasarty Church
P.O. Box 71
Wetumka, OK 74883

Middle Creek Baptist Church
P.O. Box 608
Holdenville, OK 74848

Middle Creek Baptist Church
Route 1
Lamar, OK 74850

Montesoma Baptist Church
P.O. Box 292
Okemah, OK 74859

Morningstar Evangelistic Church
Route 2 Box 608
Holdenville, OK 74848

New Arbor Baptist Church
P.O. Box 862
Eufaula, OK 74432

New Harbor Baptist Church
836 Osage
Eufaula, OK 74432

Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church
Route 3 Box 53
Okemah, OK 74859

Okfuskee Church
P.O. Box 583
Eufaula, OK 74432

Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church
Box 651
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Ryal Community Baptist Church
Route 2 Box 397-B
Henryetta, OK 74437

Salt Creek Baptist Church
P.O. Box 185
Wetumka, OK 74883

Sand Creek Baptist Church
P.O. Box 27
Wetumka, OK 74883

Silver Springs Baptist Church
P.O. Box 490
Dewar, OK 74431

Snake Creek Baptist Church
Route 1 Box 305-A
Mounds, OK 74047

Snake Creek #1 Baptist Church
P.O. Box 432
Coweta, OK 74429

Thewahle Indian Baptist Church
1633 N. Birmingham Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74110

Tookparfka Church
Route 2 Box 147
Wetumka, OK 74883

Tulmochusee Baptist Church
416 E. Wilson
Holdenville, OK 74848

Tuskegee Church
HC 63 Box 69
Eufaula, OK 74432

Big Cussetah Methodist Church
P.O. Box 282
Morris, OK 74445

Creek Chapel Methodist Church
Route 3 Box 18-B
Okemah, OK 74859

Davis Chapel Church
P.O. Box 282
Coweta, OK 74429

Haikey Chapel Methodist Church
P.O. Box 840
Jenks, OK 74037

Honey Creek Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1291
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Muttelokee Methodist Church
1403 S. Poplar
Bristow, OK 74010

New Town United Methodist Church
Route 1
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Pecan Grove Methodist Church
100 S. Burgess
Holdenville, OK 74848

Springfield Methodist Church
c/o Ethel Humble
P.O. Box 445
Okemah, OK 74859

Springtown United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 441
Coweta, OK 74429

Tekpuchee Independent Methodist Church
318 S. Creek
Holdenville, OK 74848

Thewarly Methodist Church
Route 1 Box 30-A
Dustin, OK 74389

Thlopthlocco Methodist Church
P.O. Box 185
Wetumka, OK 74883

Tookparfka Methodist Church
Star Route Box 15
Calvin, OK 74531

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the May 11, extraordinary session.

May 11, extraordinary session

Absent were: **George Tiger**, Creek District; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (18-0-0) TR 04-058, authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming operations authority board to exercise jurisdiction over the Eufaula Indian Gaming Center;

- approved (16-2-0) TR 04-059, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a promissory note to borrow money from the Nevada Gold Tulsa, Inc. To allow the development committee to expend funds until such time as the financing is obtained to create the project fund for the development of the Mackey project;

voting no were: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (18-0-0) NCA 04-097, amending MCNCA Title 21, §3-121, regarding law enforcement agency designated for fingerprints of gaming license;

- approved (18-0-0) NCA 04-100, authorizing an appropriation to fund the costs associated with the quarterly Intertribal council meeting of the five civilized tribes.

May 22, Regular session

Absent were: **Parish**, Muskogee District; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; and **Quiett**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved as amended (22-0-0) TR 04-023, approving the post graduate program guidelines of the division of Human Development of Higher Education program;

- approved as amended (22-0-0) NCA 04-055, recognizes and honors the remaining original allottees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

representative **Parish**, Muskogee District arrived before voting;

- approved (23-0-0) TR 04-56, confirming the nomination of **Michael Flud** as Deputy Director of the Division of Human Development;

- approved (23-0-0) TR 04-057, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Lamar Outdoor for the leasing of a Highway Billboard on tribal trust land to benefit the Tulsa Creek Indian Commu-

nity;

- approved as amended (22-1-0) TR 04-063, authorizing the Tribal Trade and Commerce Board to execute an agreement with B & B Fireworks, Morris, Oklahoma, to set up Fireworks stands at the Okmulgee and Muskogee Travel Plazas;

voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- approved (23-0-0) TR 04-064, authorizing the gaming operations authority board to expend funds and approve a construction contract with the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise for the construction and expansion of a new parking lot that will be located directly south of the Creek Nation Tulsa Casino;

- approved (23-0-0) TR 04-065, authorizing the Principal Chief to

enter a construction loan agreement with Bank One, NA to fund the construction of a healthcare clinic located in Wagoner County;

- approved as amended (17-6-0) NCA 04-057, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the National Council for the purchase of twenty four cellular telephones for the members of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-070, approving the FY 2004 Indian Housing Plan;

representative **Cleghorn** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- return to committee (19-3-0) NCA 04-089, amending title 36, §3-102, entitled "Definitions" and § 3-104, B., Entitled "original, transfer and duplicate titles"

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Wind**, Okfuskee;

- approved (14-9-0) NCA 04-090, authorizing a special appropriation to the **Will Sampson** memorial golf classic sponsored by the American Indian Film Institute, July 17, 2004;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Harjo**, Creek; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

- approved (22-1-0) NCA 04-091, authorizing an appropriation to the cultural preservation office for a GPR and GPS equipment;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously as amended (23-0-0) NCA 04-092, amending MCNCA title 22, § 5-103, entitled "benefit amounts"

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) NCA 04-093, amending MCNCA Title 22, §6-104, entitled "benefits"

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) NCA 04-094, authorizing a budget modification for environmental services, NAHASDA IHBG (Indian Housing Block Grant) funding fiscal year 2002 budget;

- approved (12-11-0) NCA 04-096, authorizing a special appropriation for a Muscogee (Creek) citizens who needs handicap accessibility in the home;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) NCA 04-098, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2004 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 03-209, NCA 03-248 and NCA 04-018, for the purpose of creating new positions within the office of public gaming;

- approved (21-2-0) NCA 04-103, supplemental appropriation to the BIA burial assistance program;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

representative **Chalakee** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) NCA 04-104, authorizing a special appropriation for the tribal complex beautification project for signage and landscaping services;

representatives **Chalakee** and **Golden** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-106, repealing NCA 04-086 and authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the emergency hardship program, social services department.

June 10, Emergency session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Shirlene Ada**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District and **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District.

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved unanimously 22-0-0 TR 04-075, recognizing and honoring **Ada (Mukes) Wolfe** a remaining original allottee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved unanimously (22-0-0) TR 04-077, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a "standard form of agreement between owner and architect where the construction management services contract" for the preliminary design phases associated with the future construction of the healthcare clinic in Wagoner County;



Council

continued from page 12

representative **Parish** arrived;

• approved (22-1-0) TR 04-078, approving wireless services agreements between the Muskogee (Creek) Nation and Cingular Wireless for cellular phones for the Muskogee (Creek) National Council representatives;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

• approved (23-0-0) TR 04-079, 080, 081, 082, and 083, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Jet Fireworks L.L.C. For the operations of one temporary Fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land.

• approved (22-1-0) NCA 04-112, amending NCA 04-057, a law of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriations to the National Council for the purchase of twenty four (24) cellular telephones for the members of the Muskogee (Creek) National Council).

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee.**July 15, Special session**

Absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Bible**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpytce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

Council went into executive session, then adjourned.

July 24, Emergency session

Absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvpytce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; and **Kelley**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpytce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

Council went into executive session, then adjourned.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Representatives 2004 - 2005

SHIRLENE M. ADE 507 E. 5th Street Holdenville, OK 74848 (H) 405-379-3252 (C) 918-520-8166	ROGER BARNETT 35685 West 191st St. South Bristow, OK 74010 (H) 918-367-3924 (C) 918-520-9164	RICHARD BERRYHILL 30283 E. 141 St. So. Coweta, OK 74429 (H) 918-486-5964 (C) 918-906-1319	LARRY S. BIBLE SR. PO Box 6 Glenpool, OK 74033 (H) 918-296-9284 (C) 918-520-8163
BILLY W. CHALAKEE 23175 Wilson Road Okmulgee, OK 74447 (H) 918-650-0183 (C) 918-520-8169	RONALD CLEGHORN 2473 E. 54th St. Tulsa, OK 74105 (H) 918-743-7126 (C) 918-520-9154	LOLA FIELDS 8137 East 1225 Wetumka, OK 74883 (H) 405-452-3796 (C) 918-520-9155	BARBARA GILLESPIE PO Box 935 Coweta, OK 74429 (H) 918-486-4453 (C) 918-520-9156
SANDRA GOLDEN Rt 1, Box 1011 Weleetka, OK 74880 (H) 405-786-2635 (C) 918-520-9157	DUKE HARJO 1506 N. Haven Avenue Sapulpa, OK 74066 (H) 918-227-1695 (C) 918-520-8170	ROBERT HUFFT 7527 S. 85th E. Ave Tulsa, OK 74133 (H) 918-252-0021 (C) 918-520-8171	KEEPER JOHNSON 807 N. Hughes Morris, OK 74445 (H) 918-733-2360 (C) 918-520-8172
SUE JOHNSON PO Box 2877 Muskogee, OK 74403 (H) 918-781-1958 (C) 918-520-8173	ROBERT JONES 2305 Briar Glen Okmulgee, OK 74447 (H) 918-756-0961 (C) 918-520-8174	JESSE F. KELLEY 5343 S. Norfolk Ave. Tulsa, OK 74105 (H) 918-742-4950 (C) 918-520-8175	THOMAS MCINTOSH PO Box 66 Stidham, OK 74461 (H) 918-689-2942 (C) 918-520-9162
ANTHONY NOTARO 1601 Coon Creek Road Eufaula, OK 74432 (H) 918-689-9031 (C) 918-520-9163	DAVID NICHOLS 1770 S. Madison Okmulgee, OK 74447 (H) 918-756-8630 (C) 918-520-9158	SANDRA PARISH 2304 Garland Muskogee, OK 74401 (H) 918-681-1498 (C) 918-520-9159	TOM PICKERING HC-63, Box 315 Eufaula, OK 74432 (H) 918-689-4180 (C) 918-520-9160
CHERRAH QUIETT 2966 West 66th Street Tulsa, OK 74132 (H) 918-445-4947 (C) 918-520-9161	GEORGE TIGER 416 East 9th Bristow, OK 74010 (H) 918-367-5365 (C) 918-520-9150	NANCY WATSON Rt 4, Box 199 Okemah, OK 74859 (H) 918-623-1696 (C) 918-520-9151	RITA J. WILLIAMS 23240 South 170 Road Henryetta, OK 74437 (H) 918-650-9758 (C) 918-520-9152
LENA WIND Rt 3 Box 205 Okemah, OK 74859 (H) 918-623-9313 (C) 918-520-9153	THOMAS YAHOLA PO Box 303 Wetumka, OK 74883 (H) 405-452-3552 (C) 918-906-1273	TERRY DUTCHY National Council Secretary 918-906-1274	

Update from the Muskogee District Seat A representative

I, Sandra Parish, the Muskogee District Seat A National Council Representative would like to pass some information to the citizens. I have been elected to serve our Creek Citizens and have been given a great responsibility in making decisions to better serve our Citizens.



As of this moment, there is and has been a problem that lies within our Division of Health. I introduced a bill several months ago to move the Division of Health back under the Tribe for accountability purposes. The bill was then assigned to the Community Services and Cultural Committee, which consist of six National Council members, where the bill failed in committee. The bill has never even had a chance to make it to the full council. Once again, another bill to place the Division of Health under the Tribe was introduced last month and it also failed in committee.

An audit was performed on the Division of Health, during this audit the auditors discovered that at the end of each fiscal year, carry over funds from some of the programs was being placed in the directors account. Some of these programs are federally funded. These carry over funds should have been returned back to the program in which the carry over was attained. All these years our people have been told they cannot be served due to lack of funding. The auditors report showed that there were more than \$12 million sitting in this account drawing interest.

For this very reason, I feel that it's imperative that we move the Division of Health's finances under the tribe for accountability purposes and to ensure that our people are receiving the service they need. I would like to encourage each and every one of you to contact your district representative and let them know your concerns regarding this issue. I will soon introduce a new bill addressing this issue once more, so I would like to encourage you to attend the Community Services and Cultural Committee meeting when this bill comes out again.

The next regular committee meeting has been scheduled for August 17 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to all who would like to attend.

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center

Chief Financial Officer

Roving Cook - ENP

Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee

Facility Technician - Sapulpa

RN Supervisor - Sapulpa

Public Health Nurse - Sapulpa

Facility Technician - Sapulpa

Billing Technician - Sapulpa (2 positions)

LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)

Health System Administrator - Okmulgee

Medical Technologist - Okmulgee

Medical Records Clerk - Okmulgee

Receptionist - Lackey Hall

EMT Basic - Okemah

Head Cook - Muskogee

Services Research Assistant -BHS

Facility Technician - Okmulgee

The Human Resources Department staff follows well-defined policies and procedures regarding the staffing process. Each position has a closing date that must be adhered to without exception. Some positions are more difficult to staff than others and are recruited as "Open Until Filled". The Personnel Department must receive applications for a minimum of 5 days before the first panel of qualified applicants is provided to the hiring official. Applications will be received until the position is staffed in these circumstances. The Division applies Tribal and Indian Preference in all hiring and employment decisions in accordance with Tribal Ordinance as established by National Council Act 81-40. To receive preference an applicant must submit verification in the form of a CDIB (Certified Degree of Indian Blood) Card or Citizenship Card. For more information call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Travel Plaza - Okmulgee

Travel Plaza - Muskogee

Muscogee Document Imaging

Farm Authority

For more information on employment opportunities at Trade and Commerce please contact: Muscogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce Authority, P.O. Box 117 1010, East Eufaula, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 or contact Alexis Crosley at (918) 732-7764. These jobs have an Indian Preference.

Office of Public Gaming

The Muscogee Nation Office of Public Gaming is accepting applications for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Gaming Commissioner

DUTIES: to conduct all tasks necessary to insure the integrity of all Muscogee (Creek) Nation gaming operations. Shall respond to inquiries from licensees, tribal officials, tribal members, and the public. Shall review financial information and operations. Shall make decisions on customer complaints. Shall issue all appropriate licenses in a timely manner and deny any ineligible applicants. Shall review and make judgements on adequacy of licensee compliance. Shall impose penalty or remedial action for noncomplying licensees. Shall monitor and review licensed gaming facilities for compliance with ordinance, utilizing appropriate staff. Shall prepare budgets and consult with National Council, perform performance reviews, create schedule perform numerous tasks in overseeing all Muscogee (Creek) Nation's gaming operations. Shall perform any and all other duties as assigned.

PREFERRED REQUIREMENTS: a bachelors degree with business management experience with an understanding of business and regulatory concepts. Minimum requirements include a bachelors degree in business with 2 years experience. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary back ground checks. Indian Preference.

Send applications to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services; P.O. Box 580; Okmulgee, OK 74447; fax, 918-756-2284; or e-mail them to jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment application is also available in PDF format on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Muscogee Nation Tribal Construction

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Construction is accepting applications for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Construction Engineer

DUTIES: coordinating projects with architects and contractors to specify technical studies, product design, preparation to specifications, product plans and product testing in accordance with engineering principles, company standards, and contract specifications. Shall coordinate activities concerned with technical developments scheduling, and resolve engineering design and test problems. Shall evaluate and approve design changes, specifications, and drawing releases. Shall control expenditures with limitations of budget. Shall prepare written reports pertaining to the status of the projects, costs, materials, and other status as required. Shall perform any and all other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS: Masters degree in civil engineering is preferred. Minimum requirements include a bachelors degree with knowledge of architectural and engineering functions for the purpose of planning, organizing, direction, and controlling the procedures and standards necessary to accomplish the mission of development and maintaining a safe and structural sound working environment. Must submit to and pass all necessary background and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license. Indian Preference

Send applications to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services; P.O. Box 580; Okmulgee, OK 74447; fax, 918-756-2284; or e-mail them to jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment application is also available in PDF format on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is accepting applications for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Realty Specialist - Muskogee

To apply, send your applications to: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Plains Human Resources, (Fedex: 1 Mile North on Highway 281), P. O. Box 368, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005. For more information please call 405-247-1661.

This job is Indian Preference.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to contract with BWXT Pantex and Department of Energy

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) held a meeting with representatives of the BWXT Pantex Company regarding a near future contract.

In attendance of this meeting were: Principal Chief A.D. Ellis; Second Chief Alfred Berryhill; Pantex representatives, James Raucci, Contract Specialist, Dickie Haney Manager, and Anson Cagle; and the staff of the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, Michael Nalley, Director, Woody Anderson, Construction Services Division Manager, B.J. Wagoner, Fire and Security Project Manager, John Pritchard, Fire and Security Division Manager and Steve Bighorse, Construction Service Division Project Manager.

BWXT Pantex is the only company within the United States that assembles and disassembles nuclear devices. The Pantex plant is owned by the Department of Energy and is located in Amarillo, Texas. Facilities for MNBE will locate a project office at the facility.

MNBE's immediate goals are to develop safety plans, activity plans and begin the first stages of the proposal for this contract. BWXT Pantex will facilitate and manage a 10 year, \$750 million infrastructure program at the complex site.

During the meeting, Michael Nalley explained in detail their 8(a) certified program. Anson Cagle explained the challenges and impacts to MNBE staff, along with procedures and requirements that this con-

tract will demand. Pantex representatives complemented MNBE for their outstanding responsiveness and performance in early negotiations. "We were very impressed with MNBE responsiveness and performance," stated Dickie Haney, Construction and Design Contracts Manager for Pantex. "The fact that MNBE traveled to Amarillo to visit the Pantex Company was very impressive as well."

Further discussions, led by Woody Anderson, dealt

with procedures and the process of general activity on site at the Pantex plant.

According to Nalley, Pantex representatives were very helpful in clarifying all procedures and expressing the safety precautions and training they will take with all construction workers and Pantex staff. Cagle went into detail regarding safety topics and the fact that Pantex promotes safety and security at the highest measures. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise will report further progress as it occurs.



Left To Right: MNBE Director Michael Nalley, MCN Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, BWXT Pantex Manager Dickie Haney, Bwxt Pantex Contract Specialist James Raucci, MCN Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, and BWXT Pantex Representative Anson Cagle.

Tulsa Creek Casino inherit bingo fan populace

The Cherokee Nation has decided to end the game at its casinos, giving the Creek Nation the only facilities in the area.

By S.E. Ruckman/World Staff Writer

TULSA — The Cherokee Nation has discontinued traditional bingo play in Catoosa, leaving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with the only Indian-run bingo game in the Tulsa area.

Now some players who desire a traditional bingo game in lieu of an electronic gaming device are driving the extra 20 or so miles to play. Gary Stopp, general manager for the Creek Nation Casino at 81st Street and Riverside Drive, said that while his facility did not intend to be the only bingo hall in town, he is certainly pleased with the development.

"We've hired on 90 people in the last 90 days," Stopp said. "We are experiencing strong growth." The Cherokee Nation closed its bingo operations in Catoosa after July 4 and has also discontinued bingo play at its Siloam Springs, Ark., site.

Cherokee officials decided to eliminate the bingo games as a management decision, said Dave Stewart, chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Enterprises. "It was partly an eco-

nomic decision," he said. "We're also trying to give the players a better entertainment experience with the new casino" in Catoosa. The Cherokee Nation's bingo hall was the first gaming facility brought to Catoosa by the tribe more than 15 years ago.

Stewart said the construction of the tribe's multimillion dollar casino was another consideration in deciding to halt the bingo games. The Catoosa casino is scheduled for a grand opening in December.

Creek Nation officials said the tribe's bingo operations are not going anywhere soon. The tribe recently voted to keep bingo operations, started 20 years ago, because of its social value, rather than its economic impact. "We see it as a social decision," said Stopp. We average about 400 people daily. We have some customers who have been coming in everyday for the past 17 years."

The Creeks are concentrating on a \$6 million expansion of the tribe's Riverside Drive site and have plans for a multimillion dollar resort on the same site within three years, tribal officials said.

Trade and Commerce Authority set department goals

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce Authority have set department goals to have all the boundary fences in place; stop free grazing on tribal land and to utilize the Nation's land to the fullest extent. Trade and Commerce are also looking into the development of a pond for the use of irrigation and livestock.

The Trade and Commerce Authority reviews the possibility of diverse business ventures for the Tribe, as well as the possible aspect of employment within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction for the business ventures.

Companies currently under the Trade & Commerce umbrella include the following: Okmulgee Travel Plaza; Muskogee Travel Plaza; Cromwell Travel Plaza; Muscogee Document Imaging Company; Farm Authority; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bottled Water; and Kudos.

Spotlight

"The FCC is very active in Indian Country. Telecommunications is the modern day horse of Indian Country."

Creek man works with the FCC

by Gerald Wofford

The FCC officially stands for Federal Communication Commission, but it could very well stand for a Federal Creek Communicating. This specific Creek would be none other than Geoffrey Blackwell.

Blackwell has been with the FCC since January of 2000. His official title is Senior Attorney and FCC Liaison to Tribal Governments. In September of 2000, Blackwell was officially named the FCC liaison to Tribal Governments at the FCC's first National Telecom training conference for tribes. He has been working directly with Tribes on telecom issues every day since then. "Serving Indian Country in this capacity is a great honor," says Blackwell. "I serve as the senior attorney advisor on tribal matters and work with state, local, and tribal governments."

His resume does read impressively. Some of the places he has served at were the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, Smithsonian Institution, and the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Blackwell feels the FCC is doing what it is supposed to do for Native Americans. "The FCC is very active in Indian Country," says Blackwell. "Telecommunications is the modern day horse of Indian Country. It is a utility upon which the delivery of so much to our communities is predicated. It has the potential to bring us so many beneficial things; information, entertainment, education, health, jobs, public safety, government services and a greater economic opportunity for the lands in which we live."

According to Blackwell, the FCC holds training seminars on telecom issues, meets with individual tribes on their individual telecom concerns and matters, attends and participates in tribal conferences, and prepares and distributes informational materials to tribes. The FCC is strengthening its trust relationships with tribes and learning a great deal in the process.

Blackwell interprets his role as being similar. Although he provides a lot of information to Indian tribes interested in the field of telecommunications on a worldwide scale, he also sees his responsibility to educate the commissioners and bureaus on how to deal wisely with Native Americans.

"I'm responsible for various FCC Indian Telecommunications Initiative outreach efforts to tribes, tribal representatives, and tribal consumers in regards to telecommunications good and services and on all aspects of the FCC," says Blackwell. "I'm also responsible for various in-reach coordination with other FCC Bureaus and offices to educate commission staff about tribal governments and cultures, sovereignty rights, federal Indian law and tribal communications needs."

Blackwell knows that Native American tribes are making great strides in the field of communications and realizes it was just a matter of logical progression, especially on an individual basis. "When I came to the commission, the 1990 census demonstrated that the average rate of tribal homes on reservations that had telephone service in them was a little under 47 percent" he said. "This compared to about 95 percent of homes nationwide that had telephone service. Based on the 2000 census, this percentage, also referred to as telephone pen-

etration rate, has risen. Tribal homes on reservations now have a telephone penetration rate of just under 68 percent. It's a very good increase and a great indication of things to come, but there is still much work to do."

According to Blackwell, Native American culture has always provided for the highly adaptive resourcefulness of tribes to flourish. Tribes have succeeded despite wars, removal, assimilation and other challenges to our society and heritage. Presently, tribes throughout the Nation are at various stages of implementing unique telecom applications for their particular needs.

Because of his contribution, the FCC was awarded, by the National Congress of American Indians, the 2004 Leadership Awards for demonstrating exemplary commitment to the honorable exercise of the government to government relationship through meaningful outreach and consultation with Indian Tribes.

Blackwell respects the field that he's in and leans heavily upon his Muscogee (Creek) roots to guide him through professional matters. "I hold to the tribal values with which I was raised," he said. "The importance of our tribal culture and identity, sovereignty and self-determination, and the fundamental goal to work for the betterment of Indian country, tribal communities and individual Indian leads me. In terms of professions, my family is made up of warriors, educators and diplomats. Sometimes I see my job as a bit of each."

His family is deeply rooted in Oklahoma. They are from the Tukabatchee Town. The patriarch of the family was Colonel William Robison who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War. His daughter was Lucy Robison Brown Scott, whose daughter was his great, great, grandmother, Malinda Brown Benham. "Our family still owns her allotment near Carson," he said. "Our entire family is proud of my Aunt Lucy, Bill Benham's sister, who is 99 years old and is one of our Original Allotees."

Blackwell and his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Hawkins, make their home in Rockville, Maryland. "Two years ago we had our daughter, Megan Elizabeth," says Blackwell. "The three of us now make our home in Rockville, Maryland, where it is almost as humid as Hughes County."



Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Geoffrey Blackwell

Shop talk with Gerald

Congratulations to Riverside Indian High School Basketball team. The multi-tribe Native American School from Anadarko, captured first place in the Native American Basketball Invitational Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona on July 24. The tournament, which is in its third year, has the sponsorship of Nike and the Phoenix Suns of the NBA.

The tournament was held at the American West Arena, featuring some of the best Indian high school basketball teams in the Nation, 24 teams to be exact. Teams from places such as Sikiska Alberta, Canada and Bishop, California, South Dakota and New Mexico were among some of the visiting states. However, most teams were from the Arizona area.

Riverside and Cheyenne-Arapaho were the only boys team from Oklahoma to compete. The only girls team from Oklahoma was a Cheyenne-Arapaho team from Concho.

The MNN wants to give special recognition to outstanding Creek athletes, especially at the high school level. Beginning next month, the MNN will announce the Male and Female Creek Athlete of the Month. Winners will be given a custom-made poster of themselves in action, along with a T-shirt and an interview on the Creek Nation Radio Program. Winners will be selected by a letters of recommendation from family, friends, or coaches. Staff reporters will attend their games to do a story and capture photographs. Mail recommendations to: Creek Nation Communications/Athlete, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Well, you can already see the pigskin flying in the air. Ladies you may begin to see your man acting more funny than he usually he does. Like any red-blooded American male, he senses the oncoming football season just ahead! Thank God for the fall!

Concerning the fan frenzy with the college game, it looks like Labor Day weekend, September 4-6 will be the official kickoff with most Division I-A schools on the playing field. It all culminates on Monday night, September 6, with the Florida State Seminoles visiting the Miami Hurricanes.

The buzz locally will be the Oklahoma Sooners. Can they rebound from a disappointing finish from last season? Bob Stoops, Head Coach at Oklahoma, is answering every question thrown at him the right way, not making any excuses about last year. But you can tell that fire is in his eyes and he can't wait to get his team on the field.

Many publications have been hitting the newsstands since July announcing their preseason picks and favorites to win the coveted National Championship. One of this writer's favorite sports magazine to read right now is, *Athlon Sports*, which ranks all 117 division I-A college teams. In case you missed it, here are the top five rankings: 1. USC, 2. Oklahoma, 3. Georgia, 4. Miami, and 5. West Virginia.

Creek runner nearly makes Olympic team

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bryan Berryhill is like any talented amateur athlete dreaming of making the U.S. Olympic team and representing his country. This year's version of the historic summer sporting event will be held in Athens, Greece.

For most amateur athletes, this is the Super Bowl and NBA finals rolled into one. This is what they strive and hope for. Many will not go on to a lucrative professional contract offer, but back to a less spotlighted life.

Berryhill attended Crater High School in Central Point, Oregon where he specialized in the 1,500 meter run. Berryhill excelled in this and other events garnering a five-time prep all-state champion status.

After high school, Berryhill attended Colorado State University enjoying a stellar career as well. He was the 2001 NCAA outdoor champion in the 1,500 meters and finished runner-up in 2002 and 2003 in the same event.

Berryhill has been running since an early age and the hopes of making the 2004 U.S. Olympic Track and Field team was certainly a legitimate hope.

He entered the U.S. Olympic Track and field trials in Sacramento, California as a third seed nationally. The trials were held July 16 through the 19. The trials, which is actually the qualifying tournament for all potential track and field athletes, take the top three athletes in each event.



The trials actually started rather well for Berryhill. On Thursday evening in the opening heat, Berryhill easily advanced to the semifinal round by finishing third. Berryhill was clocked at 3 minutes and 47.17 seconds. Just .06 of a second behind event favorite, Alan Webb.

Brian Bedard, Berryhill's track coach at Colorado State, was pleased with the beginning performance. "I thought Bryan ran like Bryan Berryhill, out in front," said Bedard. "Not only did he advance, he didn't expend too much energy, which should help him."

Friday would be the semifinal heat. If Berryhill could finish in the top six in this heat, he would be on to the finals and one step closer to an Olympic spot. Berryhill had already ran against most of the opponents in college. He was certainly familiar with their pacing and running habits.

The semifinals started out just fine for Berryhill. He was running well through a pack clinging closely together.

The first lap, second lap, and third lap went great for Berryhill. In the final lap, the pack came closer together and Berryhill's feet become tangled with another competing runner. He stumbled and nearly fell to the ground. He never recovered and finished 11th in the 12-man heat. "It was really disappointing," CSU assistant Brian Bedard said. "He had a large contingent of people here supporting him."

Okmulgee standout signs with Haskell Indians

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Dante Lewis is seeing some of his dreams come true.

Lewis recently signed a letter of intent to play Basketball at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Lewis, a graduating senior from Okmulgee High School, sees this as a unique challenge. "I'm real excited about this," said Lewis, "I'm very eager to play right now."

Lewis was a key factor in helping his high school team reach the state semifinals.

He led the Bulldogs in scoring with 14.3 points a game. He connected on 84 of 222 field goals, 47 of 144 3-pointers, and 107 of 146

free throws. In other important facets of the game, Lewis was instrumental in grabbing 108 rebounds, dishing out 72 assists and recording 53 steals on the defensive end.

"I've watched a lot of film on him," said Haskell Head Coach Jamie Morrison, "he's athletic and quick and has good hands."

Morrison hopes to rebound from a disappointing season of a year ago. The Indians finished with a dismal seven wins and 20 losses.

Fans will get a chance to see Lewis in action locally. Haskell plans to play in Oklahoma City, Muskogee, and at Bartlesville. The official schedule will be announced.



Pictured at signing are: (front row, l to r) Dante Lewis, Haskell Coach Jamie Morrison and Okmulgee Coach Gene Walters; (back row) Tammy and Sidney Lewis

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Promoting small business, industries, agriculture, and tourism

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Balancing needs of business, industry, oil, & agriculture while applying best resource management practices

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Continuing support for quality medical care facilities, medical professionals, and health care providers

"I ask my Muscogee Creek friends to vote for me, so I can serve you in the Oklahoma House of Representatives."



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Dayle James for Sheriff

A message to the voters

I Dayle James, ask for your vote for Sheriff of Okmulgee County. I offer over fifteen (15) years in law enforcement experience and administration with a proven track record and over 15 years of business management.

I am 56 years old and lived in Okmulgee County for thirty-one and half years. I know and care for all the people of Okmulgee County. I understand the problems of Okmulgee County and will work hard to correct them. My door has always been open and my phone number always been listed for your convenience.

I will write grants to acquire more deputies. When I retired, I had written grants and received monies of ten deputies.

We need to patrol the county in an effort to help deter crime. With the operations of the jail no longer an issue, as your Sheriff, I am able to devote my full attention to the day-to-day operations and criminal investigations. In all communities in Oklahoma, the drug problem continues. My promise to you as your Sheriff, will be to work with all agencies including the District Attorney Drug Task Force, to arrest and convict drug dealers.

We need drug education for kids, combined with enforcement of arresting the drug dealers. Our children are our top priority for a successful community.

I also promise to use my experience from the past to solve the problems of the future and will work to keep all violent criminals behind bars. Ask yourself, do you want a Sheriff who cares for the people and will work to solve our problems? Do you want a Sheriff who will work to keep violent criminals behind bars?

The answer is obvious

Thank you for your support

Vote for
DAYLE JAMES
For Sheriff

The choice is obvious

Dayle James Campaign

P.O. Box 275 Okmulgee, Ok 74447



APRIL HOLAHTA

OKEMAH — April Lynn Holahta was born on April 30, 1983 in Okemah and died on June 28 in Tulsa.

Preceding her in death were: Woodrow Fixico, Eugene and Cindy Holahta.

Survivors include: son, Johnas Cameron Holahta of the home; mother, Eugenia Holahta; father, George Fixico of the home; sisters, Keri Waldon, Kim Switch of Shawnee, Sheri Tiger and Elizabeth Buckley, both of Okemah; brothers, Thomas Fixico of Okmulgee, Charlie and Timothy Buckley, both of Shawnee; grandmother, Jeannie Fixico of Clearview; dad, Vincent Buckley of Shawnee; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and many special friends.

Pallbearers were: Nocus Holahta; Mitchell and Morris Harjo; Russell Locust; Jerome Holahta and Tafv Berryhill.

CLYDE HODGE JR.

NAPA, California — Clyde Earl McKinley Hodge Jr. passed away July 16 at his home. He was born August 10, 1932 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Hodge was retired from the Machinist Union, Automotive Industry, after fifty years. Coming to California in 1939, with his family because Phillips was elected governor of Oklahoma, the family escaped Weedpatch migrant work camp.

He soon met his wife of 55 years in Oroville, California, and married her at sixteen.

Clyde graduated high school at Eureka High School in Eureka, California in 1949. In the early Fifties, he and his family lived in the San Francisco East Bay Area until he and his wife moved to Napa.

Hard worker that he was, he usually had at least one second job such as real estate. Hodge received his pilot's license while in his forties and flew whenever he could.

He was a lifelong hunter, fisherman and car enthusiast. Clyde enjoyed public service for the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts, and at passing was a member of California Indian Education Association, Central Valley Chapter.

Survivors include: his wife, Dolores Hodge of Napa, California; son, Clyde Leslie Hodge of Delhi, California; daughter, Lorraine Gail of Tigard, Oregon; four grandchildren; siblings, Betty Ralston of San Leandro, California, Carl Hodge of Stroud, Oklahoma, Mary Hodge of Lakeport, California, Jesse Hodge of Idaho and Darlene Fultz of Thermalito, California; and nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorial contributions can be sent to: California Indian Education Association, P.O. Box 1128, Santa Maria, California, 93456-1128.



Hodge

GORDON WILLIAMSON

HANNA — Funeral services for Gordon Gerome "Chip" Williamson were held May 13 at Trenton Baptist Church with Revs. Malcolm Tiger and Nelson Harjo officiating.

He was born December 29, 1970 to Richard and Wanda (Lowe) Williamson.

Chip grew up in Hanna and was a floor clerk at Creek Nation Okmulgee Casino for 9 years, where he had received Employee of the Year Award in 2003.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents, Mandy and Tommy Lowe and an uncle, Eddie Lowe.

Survivors include: his parents; wife, Shelley Jacobs of the home; two sons, Zachary and Brandon Williamson, both of the home; daughter, Megan Williamson; two brothers, Curtis, of Hanna and LuLu Williamson, of the home; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were: Ray and Pahose Harjo; Kelly Lowe; Brian Wacoche; Mekko Riley; Rodney Jones; Mitch Jack; David Leslie Billy; B.J. Jacobs; Archey Smith; and Darrell Proctor.

Interment was at the Proctor Family Cemetery.

Gospel Singing

Tallahassee Church Gospel Singing

OKMULGEE — A gospel singing will be held Saturday, August 21 at Tallahassee Indian Church. The singing will begin at 7 p.m. Emcee will be Johnson "Corney" Buck.

The church is located at 11240 Celia Berryhill Road or one and three fourths mile west of Highway 75.

Concession will be available. Bring your own lawn chairs.

The singing is being held to raise money for a new church building and donations are tax deductible.

Butler Creek Gospel Singing

OKTAHA — Butler Creek Baptist Church is hosting a gospel singing August 28 beginning at 6 p.m.

All singers and listeners welcome. Concession available.

For more information contact 918-682-7903 or 918-682-9645.

The church is located from Highway 69, Wainwright exit, east to stop sign, Oktaha Road, turn right, go quarter mile, turn left at church sign, cross railroad tracks, go 2 miles east the church is on right side or Highway 69, Oktaha exit, go north, Oktaha Road, 2 miles, turn at church sign, cross railroad tracks, go 2 miles east the church is on right side.

2nd Annual Spook Wesley Memorial Singing

TULSA — Bemo Baptist Church will be hosting the 2nd Annual Spook Wesley Memorial Singing on October 2nd. The singing begins at 7 p.m.

The church is located 2 miles north of Bixby, 1/2 mile west on 131st, then 1/4 mile south.

Legal

continued from page 8

407 South Florence Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-2430

/s/ Charles Tripp, MCN # 117
Supervision Attorney for Petitioners
The University of Tulsa, College of Law
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Indian Law Program
407 South Florence Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-2430

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of July, 2004
/s/ Dyan Bramwell, Notary Public

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2004-12

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff vs. Terro Winn, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 27th day of May, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **TERRO WINN**, appears pro se and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Public Intoxication (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707)** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Nine (9) months** in the custody of the Lighthorse Police.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant's plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

Primary Decision 2004 Choose or Lose



Oksatvs!



The Tulsa Creek Indian Community held a free admission voter registration concert and rally titled, "Primary Decision 2004, Choose or Loose" at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center at 8611 South Union Street.

There were eight bands performing, including: Sam and the Stylees; The Engine Hearts; Nevla Nevi; Brian Parton; Brian Burns; Prairie Fire; and Ice Nine. There were vendors and a concession was provided by Hide Away Pizza and the T.C.I.C. Youth.

Many came out to register to vote in the National and Oklahoma elections. Creek Citizens were also able to register to vote in the Muscogee (Creek) elections. T.C.I.C.'s aim and intent was to get as many Native Americans registered to vote in upcoming elections. There are many issues and candidates that can affect Native Americans both directly and indirectly.

For more information on registering to vote in Muscogee (Creek) elections, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board at (918) 732-7600. The board stresses the importance of keeping your address up to date.



Oksatvs!



Muscogee native continues family tradition of traditional flute music

MUSKOGEE — John "Yafke" Timothy is the director of Ataloa Lodge Museum at Bacone College.

Born in Muscogee, John was the youngest of three children. His father, John Timothy, Sr., bestowed his Indian name, "Yafke," upon him because it means "evening" in the Muscogee (Creek) language. He thought this appropriate for his last child's birth.

Growing up in the Muscogee Nation, it was not difficult for John to become familiar with his American Indian roots. He continues to embrace these traditions as an adult. John was especially influenced by his uncle,

the late Mason "Buddy" Scott, who was an award-winning flute maker and skilled in many traditional Indian arts. "He first introduced me to the magic of traditional flutes," said Timothy.

Prior to serving as Director of Ataloa Lodge, John Timothy served for six years as the Cultural Arts Coordinator for The Five Civilized Tribes Museum and Center for the Study of Indian Territory.

Timothy's first CD was entitled, "That Ole Sofkee Spoon." He and Lisa LaRue both contributed to this first CD. The CD is a mixture of cool blues, smooth jazz, with a twist of Native American flute.

His latest CD is entitled, "Invtska." In the tradition of the Muscogee people a man is believed to have two souls, first the good spirit, Invtska, which goes with him through life and talks to him in his dreams and signifies his talent, identity, and genius. The second, Yafikica, is a spirit or soul of the afterlife, which guides sentiments, passions, feeling of good and evil.

Timothy has recently signed a recording contract with Oyate Music Group Recordings. For more information about "Yafke" visit his site at www.yafke.com.



Jerry Seinfeld live in concert

TULSA — Due to popular demand, America's premier stand-up comedian is hitting the road in a return to his first love, stand-up comedy. Recently hailed as the master stand-up comic for his generation and the best comedian of our time in a Washington Post article by Tom Shales, Seinfeld has an uncanny ability to joke about the little things in life that relate to audiences everywhere.

Seinfeld has set his sights on performing across the country in 2004. His show comes to Tulsa on Friday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. A special internet presale begins on Friday, Aug. 6 at 10 a.m. at www.tulsapac.com. Phone and ticket window sales begin on Monday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. Call 918-596-7111 for tickets.



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Film to portray triumphant story of a Native American boxer

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Muscogee Nation News

E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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September 2004, 20 Pages

Classes begin at the newly created Tribal College

by Lucas Taylor

OKMULGEE — Classes officially began at the newly created Tribal College on the campus of OSU-Okmulgee on Sept. 1.

"We believe this is the beginning of something very special," said Mike Flud, Division of Human Development Deputy Director. "Four of the five largest tribes in the Nation reside in eastern Oklahoma. Our institution of higher learning will be a great resource for educating and preserving our future generations and act as a model for other educational institutions to follow."



A total of 38 students enrolled in Creek Language, Native American History, or one of the 13 general education classes offered at the Tribal College Pilot Project.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Judge Patrick Moore will be teaching the history class and Supreme Court Justice Amos McNac will teach the language class.

"By utilizing Native American instructors and offering Native American based courses, we hope to have a favorable retention rate," said Flud. "A higher retention rate will create a stronger workforce and help rebuild a struggling economy."

Classes were open to everyone, however, special consideration was given to tribal employees who were encouraged by Principal Chief A.D. Ellis to become more efficient at serving Creek citizens.

Enrollment for next semester will begin in late Nov. or early Dec. For more information about the Tribal College contact the Division of Human Development at (918) 732-7600 or (800) 482-1979.

Ocmulgee National Monument undergoes changes



The Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia is currently undergoing changes to the Funeral Mound. Steps that lead to the top of the mound are being removed and will be replaced with new sod. "We are removing the steps that were placed here back in the 1960's," said Jim David, Ocmulgee National Monument Superintendent. "This mound is one of the most sacred mounds here at Ocmulgee." According to David, there have been children and teenagers that have climbed the steps and used pieces of cardboards to slide down the mound. They had no idea of the significance of the sacred mound. David also plans on constructing a low picket fence on the outside perimeter of the Funeral Mound as a visual barrier. The Ocmulgee Indian Celebration is scheduled to begin on Sept. 18. (See page 10 for more details)

photo by Lucas Taylor

Trade and Commerce assists the town of Dustin with water shortage

by Wilma Murphy

DUSTIN — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, and Danny Wesley, Director of Trade and Commerce, assisted the city of Dustin and its citizens with a water shortage problem due to a fire emergency.

Due to the extent of the fire, it required all of the City's water to be used to consume the fire. Cleo Robinson, Mayor of Dustin, phoned Chief Ellis and asked for emergency assistance. Trade and Commerce employees, Eastman Whitlow and Walter Jones transported 60 cases of bottled water for the people to drink and a 250 gallon buffalo barrel of water for the people to use.

"Creek Nation was very willing to give back to their community," said Whitlow. "The citizens of Dustin were very grateful for the Tribe's help."

An anonymous caller notified Barbara Crawford, town clerk, that there was a fire on 107 N. Broadway. This was where the City kept all of their equipment,

such as lawnmowers, weed eaters, meters, and air compressors. Crawford notified the Robinson and the Dustin Fire Department.

When the Dustin Fire Department seen that the fire was getting out of control, they called surroundings communities for assistance. The Wetumka, Salem and Plain View Fire Department graciously came to their rescue. The fire started around noon on Monday, Sept. 6 and the Firemen worked until midnight to put the fire out.

Robinson has estimated the damage to be approximately \$10,000 for the storage building and \$25,000 for its contents. Dustin had already had a history of water problems. Now they plan to take steps toward getting a new water pump to solve future water shortages.

County workers came in to help finish knocking down the remaining residue that was left standing. The cause of the fire is not yet determined.

Thanks to Communications Department
Editor:

Please excuse my delay in writing this letter to you about the recent Creek Nation Festival communications staff. Personally I missed the festival due to work commitments, however I did have an opportunity to review and receive posters and communications sent out by the folks on your staff.

The posters and communications were all very professional, of high quality and the content and organization excellent.

One would know that many hours of work and preparation went into ensuring this was going to be a success! The first milestone would be the communications pieces that were prepared. They were very well planned and designed. Credit for this should be given to all your staff members and especially to Ruth Bible. Please let them know we do notice your work. Best regards,

L Noon Stokes

PMPEntergy Transmission, Little Rock, AR

Creek Citizens vote in 2004

Editor:

As a Senior Creek Citizen, I wonder how many of our Creeks voted in the recent primary election? Also, how many will vote in the November 2004 election to elect the President for the next 4 years. The U.S. has many problems to face which will affect all of us, but mainly the young.

Some of the things which will impact on all of us is the huge National debt of over 6 trillion dollars; the cost of the war in Iraq which has cost \$200 billion to date, outsourcing of many jobs to India, China, Philippines, and other countries; and the possibility of reinstating the draft. There is, also, the fact the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer.

We Creeks need to realize that our vote is important, and the Native American vote can make a difference.

Sincerely yours,
Jorene Coker, Preston, OK

Citizen express appreciation

Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to the senior citizens gift shop for giving me a couple of gifts that I will use as door prizes at my Creek Language Class at the Thurman Jr. White Forum Building at the OU Campus in Norman. I taught on August 21, 2004 and again on August 28, 2004. Mvto! Thank You

Millie Jean Colbert,
Certified Creek Teacher

Citizen requests information on clan

Editor:

I would like to receive information on the Creek Indians and the Wind Clan. I have information that my great grandmother was from this clan. It has been hard for me to find any informa-

tion in the Florida area that I live. The clan it refers to I think was from around the Florida town area, which is close to Pensacola.

If you can send any information please do so to my current home address:

Margaret McCallie
1388 Jaybird Ln.
Tallahassee, FL 32310
(850) 575-2674

If you have web sites that I might contact, this would also be helpful. I would like to be put on the National Registry when I have all of my information together. I would like to know as much as possible about this tribe of Indians.

Thank you for your help,
Margaret McCallie,
Tallahassee, FL

OHA needs employees to fill jobs

I am enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and employed by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), Social Security Administration. The Associate Commissioner for OHA, A. Jacy Thurmond, Jr., informed me that we need to fill 200 jobs before September 30, 2004. They range from clerical to paralegal/attorney positions. I am not the contact person but you may get more information on the following website:

www.usajobs.opm.gov

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks,
Richard O. Litsey
Hearing Office Director
713-654-1090 Ext. 266

Thanks to the Caregiver Program

Editor:

My name is Patricia Coon, sometime ago I saw in the Muscogee Nation News that there was a Caregiver Program. I have been the sole caregiver for my mother. She is 80 years old now and quite ill. There is only my sister and I in the family. My younger sister is also in poor health.

My mother has to have someone with her all the time now. I'm glad I have been here for her. She has been there for

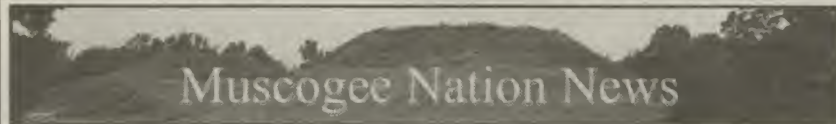
me through the years and I wanted to help her to stay in her home as long as she could.

The respite worker has helped me so much along with this caregiver program. Having someone to relieve me has helped so much. I love my mom so, but you can really feel cut off from friends and family and the time I've had for myself with someone coming in to take my place now and then. Our elder deserve our help and love to the end.

Again thank you so much. I feel like my family has been able to help me and my Creek family.

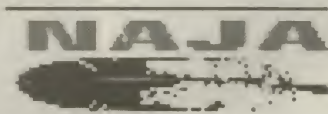
Thanks truly,

Patricia Coon, Tulsa, OK




Muscogee Nation News

Members of the following two associations:



Native American Journalist Association



The National Association of Photographers

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

LUCAS TAYLOR
Managing Editor

DENISE JACOBS
Editorial Assistant

GERALD WOFFORD
Photography/Writer

JENNIFER TARYOLE
Staff Writer

CARLA BROWN
Graphic Designer

JOSHUA SLANE
Reporter

WILMA MURPHY
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Send money order to:
Communications Dept.
PO BOX 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Change of Address:
(918) 732-7637
wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Office of the Principal Chief...

Hello again tribal citizens and friends. Many things are happening in our Nation these days. Contrary to some people's views, our progress is moving forward rapidly. Some time ago we were notified by the tribe's auditing firm that the Creek Nation is 35 million dollars richer now than it was this time last year. This is probably due to total assets.

On August 14 we conducted the first annual Church Leader's summit meeting in the Mound building. Approximately 125 people were present and communications between tribal government and leaders of church was very informative. We are on the fast tract to develop the 40 acre industrial park across from McCoy's Lumber. The City of Okmulgee has



agreed to furnish all utilities, etc. I believe **Mr. Ben Chaney** and his new transit system will be our first tenant. I keep stressing for jobs and jobs for our people and this industrial site will surely help.

Another new endeavor of this administration is to take the government to the people. I just left a meeting of the Coweta Clinic project. This week they are drilling test holes for building and street construction.

Also this week, holes are being drilled for the new Tulsa Casino project. The Endangered Species Act has a huge impact on our construction. A beetle that lives underground, a bald eagle habitat and a few more obstacles but we will keep pushing forward.

A big thanks to Trade and Commerce Authority for receiving a Best Business Award from the Oklahoma Indian Chamber of Commerce and Oklahoma Business Development, a department of Commerce entity. Good work.

Many people have asked why I don't come to the communities anymore as I did as Second Chief. I am really completely covered up with work on a national level. My meeting continuously involving state, national and tribal leaders doing what is best for our Nation as a whole. I

by **A.D. Ellis**

miss having lunch and visiting with my friends throughout the nation very much.

Also these are always rumor and stories about a new chief. I've witnessed it for 13 years but never had to endure until this year. I want to assure the creek citizens that rumors are probably started by disgruntled or jealous people who have nothing better to do. We have made many changes and will make many more in the future. Those rumors starters and relayers need prayer's if anything. I assure the Nation that I will never do anything to bring dishonor or disrespect to the office of the Principal Chief.

I will confer with many Senators and Congressman, plus NIGC chairman about gaming, IHS director about health and anything to foster better relationships for our Nation.

Looking forward to the many creek people who will be joining us at the opening of the Museum of American Indians in Washington D.C.

For now good health and good future to all people of this Nation. *Mvto.*

Quote of the month: *If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Henks Ce Vmestvlke. I recently met with a couple of ministers from Hawaii. They came to Oklahoma to visit with some of their people who are Hawaiian inmates in prison in Oklahoma.

They sang some some spiritual songs of Hawaiian or Polynesian ancestry. When you think about these people, they must also have a rich heritage. Sometimes you see these people on TV in their long boats with several men with oars. We call our boats, ships, canoes, etc. piros (pith-thoes). Since we lived near the Creeks, our people should have some knowledge about canoeing. We use the word *pirotvmkv* to mean airplane. That word translates into flying boat.



Our trade and commerce relied on the availability of waterways and shipment was made by piros. War parties were sent out by piros. When our prophets made prophecies, they told of people flying in the belly of birds, people crossing our prairies traveling inside of turtles and people traveling about in snakes. What ever became of our prophets (o-wa-lvs)? There is a saying that without vision, a nation dies. We are in the process of doing things with the Hanna Project and it seems we have done something wrong and we have a hold on our project. Before our trade and

commerce took over the farms and natural resources, these lands were being leased for around \$7 to \$8 an acre. The lessee would make a great profit and none of these monies returned back to the Tribe that amounted to several hundred thousand dollars and they were released for hunting and we received no monies in return. Now we are developing these lands and all proceeds will be made by our own organization including training and employment. But, since we as Indians are going to be doing it, we are under scrutiny, but the non-Indian lessees were free to do what they wanted and all the Tribe received was \$7 to \$8 an acre.

I hope that in the future, we can all work together and be proactive and not fight among ourselves while other Tribes around us are booming. *Mvto*

Mvskoke History Series

By
Patrick E. Moore

The second Spanish expedition entered the *Mvskoke Confederacy* during 1539. Hernando de Soto, after looting the Central and South American Aztec, Mayan and Inca Nations turned his treasure seeking attention to North America. He sailed, May 18, 1539, from Havana, Cuba, landing close to what is now Tampa Bay, Florida. On the beach he discovered a fellow Spaniard, Juan Ortiz, who had been a member of an 1528 Spanish expedition, the first Spanish expedition into the southeast. Ortiz had been captured by local Native Americans, treated with courtesy, and subsequently released to live as he pleased. Ortiz was fluent in the local languages

and De Soto ordered him to be the expedition's interpreter.

De Soto began his march inland with 600 fully armed Spanish soldiers, 220 mounted on Andalusian horses, 100 servants, including blacksmiths, and numerous slaves. The expedition also traveled with a herd of hogs, some mules and 100 specially bred man-hunting war dogs. The blacksmiths had neck chains to control several hundred slaves they hoped to capture. When local Native Americans did not cooperate with De Soto, he burned villages and executed the inhabitants. The expedition encountered strong native military resistance, as word of De Soto's brutality rapidly preceded his army.

When he moved into what is now Georgia, he encountered well organized resistance and ingenious forts that made his progress very difficult. De Soto was attacked at every river crossing and was virtually under siege by the *Mvskoke Confederacy* 24 hours a day.

He wintered in December 1539 north of the last swamp, but the relentless native assaults continued daily and his command lost one soldier a day.



Births

Claude Tyner Little Axe

MIAMI — Claude Tyner Little Axe was born June 3 to Troy and Claudia Little Axe.

He weighed 8 lbs and 7.5 ounces and 20 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Claude and Belinda Tyner of Tulsa.

Paternal grandparents are Troy and Joanne Little Axe of Bartlesville.

Maternal great grandparents are William and Vera Tyner and Julia Harjo Byrd.

Paternal great grandparents are John and Lillian Little Axe and Joe and Agnes Kitchkommie.



Little Axe

Birthday

Tiger celebrated 11th birthday

SAPULPA — Nick Tiger celebrated his 11th birthday on April 30. He is an all around athlete and currently playing baseball for the Dodger's in Sapulpa.

He plays basketball for Preston school and football at Sapulpa.

Nick is the son of Sherry Tiger. Grandparents are Judy Bruner and Jim Fife and James and Shirley Tiger.

Tiger belongs to the Polecat ceremonial ground.



Tiger

Leete celebrates first birthday with picnic

MESQUITE, NV — Andrea Grace Leete celebrates first birthday with a picnic at the park.

Many friends and family were in attendance.

She is the daughter of Robert and Carri Leete.

Maternal grandparents are Russell and Patricia Criner of Baldhill.

Maternal great grandparents are Bozy and Nada Criner. Andrea has one older sister, Ashlynn.



Leete

Young celebrates Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron theme

OKMULGEE — Marisa Cheyenne Young turned five on June 19. She is the daughter of Michael and Julia Young.

Marisa had a surprise birthday party with a

Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron theme.

Those attending were: great aunts and uncles; Ken and Darlene Taryole and Michelle and Randy Billie all of Okmulgee.

She is the great grandchild of the late Nancy Chupco Frank and the late John L. Frank of Okemah



Young

Society

Harjo receives national banking award

TULSA — Jennifer Harjo is currently employed with Bank of Oklahoma. In May, she received the national banking award and was sent to Canada to receive the award.

Jennifer funded her own way through college earning a degree in accounting. She has three sons.

Youth travel to Indian youth police academy

BURIEN, WA — In June an essay contest was sponsored by the National Indian youth police academy, with 30 males and 30 females being accepted.

Five Muscogee (Creek) Nation youths: Natashe Watashe of Kellyville; Kayla Hurn and Cara Alexander of Okmulgee; Nathan Pickering of Sapulpa; and Derrick Riley of Dustin, were accepted and traveled to the academy for 14 days with all expenses paid by the Western Community Policing Center.

The youths participated in a series of courses designed to give them hands on experience and working knowledge of major areas of police work and other criminal justice areas. The youths learned about careers in law enforcement, gained leadership, problem solving and team building skills, while they developed friendship and increased their

self esteem.

Ben Watashe, Creek Nation Lighthorse Criminal Investigator, was called upon to serve as a senior counselor. Derrick Riley, Creek Nation Lighthorse Explorer, served as junior counselor at the academy.

After completing the courses, a graduation ceremony was conducted awarding each youth a certificate of completion.

The five youths are members of the Muscogee Creek Nation Lighthorse Explorer Organization.

Lowe graduates from basic training

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Airman Lauren E. Lowe graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Lauren is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lowe of Tahlequah.

She is a 2001 graduate of Tahlequah high school and is now stationed at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi.

~Citizens of the Creek Nation~
GARLAND FOSTER
 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM A CANDIDATE FOR STATE HOUSE DIST 16 WHO HAPPENS TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE CREEK NATION. I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON NOV 2, NOT BECAUSE OF MY CITIZENSHIP BUT BECAUSE I AM COMMITTED TO REPRESENTING YOU AND YOUR INTERESTS WITH A LOUD STRONG VOICE, WHICH IS SOMETHING CREEK NATION HAS NEVER HAD.

MY REPRESENTATION WILL BE ONE OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND DEDICATION. IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO REPRESENT YOU NOT A POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY.

I AM ASKING FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF YOUR SUPPORT BECAUSE OF MY COMMITMENT TO YOU AND YOUR BEST INTERESTS AND BECAUSE IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WIN WITHOUT IT.

I DO NOT COME TO YOU, HAT IN HAND, WITH FALSE PROMISES. I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ME, AS YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, VIA A PAGER NUMBER AND I WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH CHIEF ELLIS' OFFICE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK... EVERY WEEK... TO OFFER MY ASSISTANCE. CREEK CITIZENS WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO ME IN PERSON AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH IN A TOWN HALL MEETING, YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ME AND MY ASSISTANCE WHEN YOU NEED IT AND NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME. THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY CREEK NATION OVER THE YEARS TO OKMULGEE COUNTY HAVE GONE UNNOTICED AND UNRECOGNIZED. CREEK NATION IS A VITAL AND MOST IMPORTANT FACTION IN OKMULGEE COUNTY AND IT IS TIME IT IS RECOGNIZED AS SUCH.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH ME PERSONALLY BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT MY HOME IN MORRIS AT 918-733-1259

CREEK CITIZEN CANDIDATE HOUSE DIST 16

Muscogee Division of Health Administration

Tobacco Prevention Program to focus on Women's Health in Indian Country

OKMULGEE — The Division of Health Administration is made up of several programs dedicated to the health care and prevention of our Creek citizens.

Tobacco Prevention focuses on women in Indian country

EUFAULA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program will put a human face and a local focus on the toll tobacco takes on women in Eufaula, Oklahoma. At the Women's Health Summit, on September 29th, 2004, Cynthia Coachman will call on the community to prevent and reduce smoking among girls and women at 9:00 a.m. located at the Northfolk Baptist Church located on Hwy 69 & Texanna, Bridgeport Access Road.



Women now account for 39% of all smoking-related deaths each year in the United States, a proportion that has more than doubled since 1965. According to Women and Smoking: A report of the Surgeon General, the consequences of tobacco use are especially devastating to pregnancy outcomes. Not only are women who smoke susceptible to fertility problems, but the impact on babies they carry can be deadly. Smoking dur-

ing pregnancy has been associated with the increased risk of spontaneous abortion, low birth weight, stillbirths and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The report also concludes that the increased likelihood of lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and reproductive health problems among female smokers makes tobacco use a serious women's health issue.

"The millions of women who die prematurely from smoking aren't strangers," States Cynthia Coachman, "they are our mothers and grandmothers, our sisters and friends. Smoking cessation can save their lives."

Increased marketing by tobacco companies has stalled progress in smoking cessation by women, and recent increases in smoking among teenage girls threaten to wipe out any progress in tobacco prevention that has been made in the last few decades. Quitting results in immediate health benefits for both light and heavy smokers, including improvements in breathing and circulation. The increased risks for coronary heart disease and stroke is substantially reduced after 1 or 2 years of not smoking.

When smokers quit, their lungs begin to heal and their risk of lung disease drops. Smoking cessation also improves quality of life and physical functioning. Science-based smoking cessation interventions are much more cost effective than many common medical interventions.

"I think it is important to emphasize that it's never too soon or too late to quit smoking" Cynthia Coachman, MCN Tobacco Prevention Program Director.

One cigarette contains over 4,000 toxic substances, many of which are known to cause cancer in humans. Here are just a few...

ARSENIC: used in rat poison

ACEIC ACID: hair dye and developer

ACETONE: main ingredient in paint fingernail polish remover

AMMONIA: a typical household cleaner

BENZENE: rubber cement

CADMIUM: found in batteries and artists' oil paint

CARBON MONOXIDE: poison

FORMALDEHYDE: used to embalm dead bodies

HYDRAZINE: used in jet and rocket fuels

HYDROGEN CYANIDE: poison in gas chambers

NAPHALENES: Used in explosives, mothballs, and paint pigments

NICKEL: used in the process of electroplating

PHENOL: used in disinfectants and plastics

STYRENE: found in insulation material

TULUENE: embalmers glue

VINYL CHLORIDE: ingredient found in garbage bags

Doctor's Note

From the office of Ms. Florence July HSA

Women's health in general is a very broad topic to cover, but sometimes we need to turn the maternal instincts inward toward ourselves so that we can be able to take care of our families, friends and loved-ones.

To do that think of the last time you thought about what you're eating to provide the fuel to keep on going (just like the pink bunny!) Here are some ideas: try to bake, broil or grill your foods instead of frying; eat less sugary foods and drink less pop; eat less fattening foods like french fries, chips, and deep fried foods; and be more active! Walking 30 minutes a day on most days of the week is a simple way to be more active.

Remember to keep taking care of yourself so that you can keep on taking care of others who need you!

WIC program to implement Breast-feeding Peer Counselor Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program has received grant funds from the United State Department of Agriculture to implement a Breast-feeding Peer Counselor Program in 2005. The program will be aimed at increasing breast-feeding initiation and duration rates among WIC mothers.

Peer counselors will be armed not only with their personal experience, but will have official training provided through the WIC Program. Peer counselors help prevent and manage common breast-feeding concerns and become a friend to mothers, offering support and encouragement. Peer counselors also form important links to health services in the community, including the WIC program, social services and referrals to health programs that can assist the family. They fill that all important gap in services that often occurs between hospital discharge and return to

WIC for certification of the infant.

Breast-feeding has been described as the gold standard of infant feeding because of the numerous health benefits infants and mothers receive. Breast-fed infants usually have fewer ear and respiratory infections, fewer allergies and a lower risk of SIDS. Benefits for mothers include a decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancer and diabetic mothers may experience a decrease in insulin requirements.

The Breast-feeding Peer Counselor Program will provide services to area WIC mothers that have never been offered in the past. This will be a great opportunity to improve breast-feeding numbers as well as creating healthier happier infants.

For more information, contact the WIC Program at (918) 758-2722.

Housing Authority to begin construction of new homes

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division will begin construction on a fifty-six unit Home Ownership project within the next few weeks. Geri Berryhill, Manager of the Development Department, who plans and develops new construction projects, said the contracts for the units have been awarded and are awaiting the Notice to Proceed. This is the next step in the contracting process.

Development presently has 10 houses under construction and has purchased 14 acquisition homes since April of this year. In addition to the 56 unit turn-key project, Development expects to purchase 13 more homes by the end of October and has 2 clients scheduled for closing and 10 pre-approved clients for the recently restarted Mortgage Assistance Program. The MAP program recently helped one client with closing costs and down payment.

For more information, contact: Housing Authority of the Creek Nation; P.O. Box 297; Okmulgee, OK 74447 or (918) 756-8504 or 1-800-259-5050.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERSONNEL

GERI BERRYHILL

Manager

STACEY SETTLEMYRE

Development Specialist (Vacant Sites)

THOMASENE OSBORN

Development Specialist (Donated Sites)

IVAN PULLIAM

Acquisition Specialist

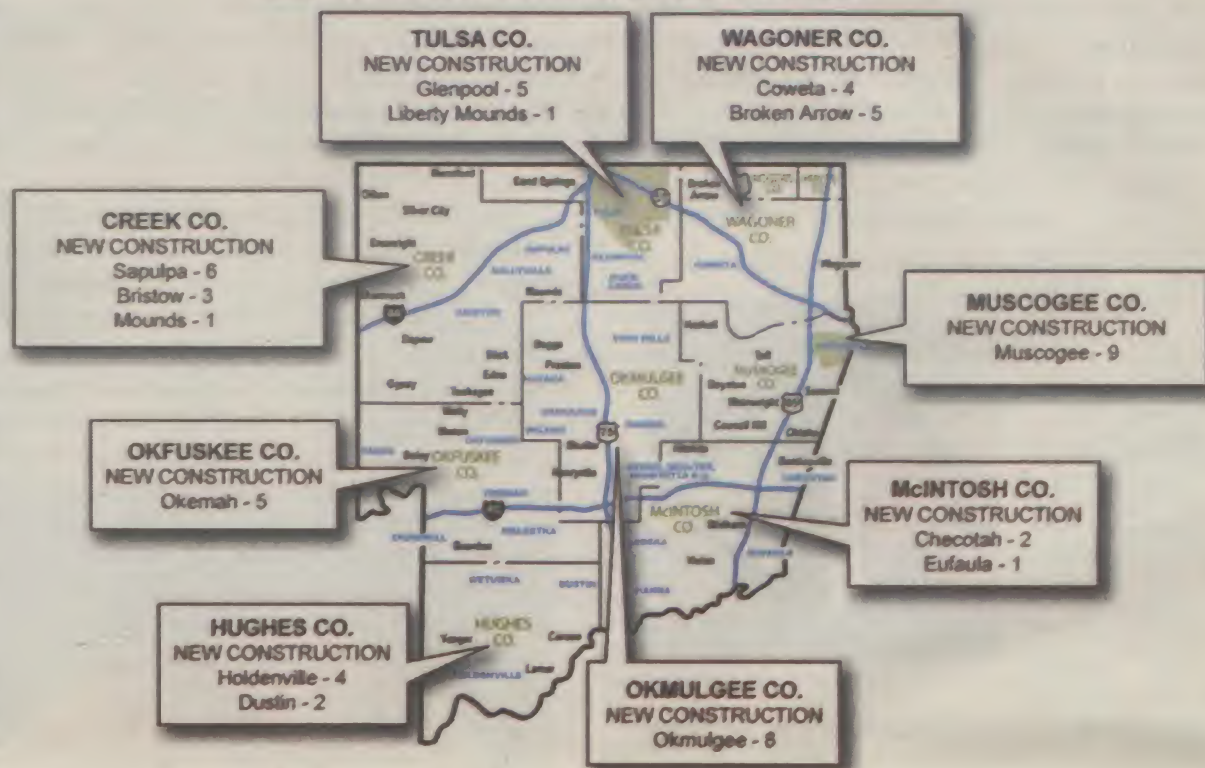
BARBARA LANE

Mortgage Assistance Program

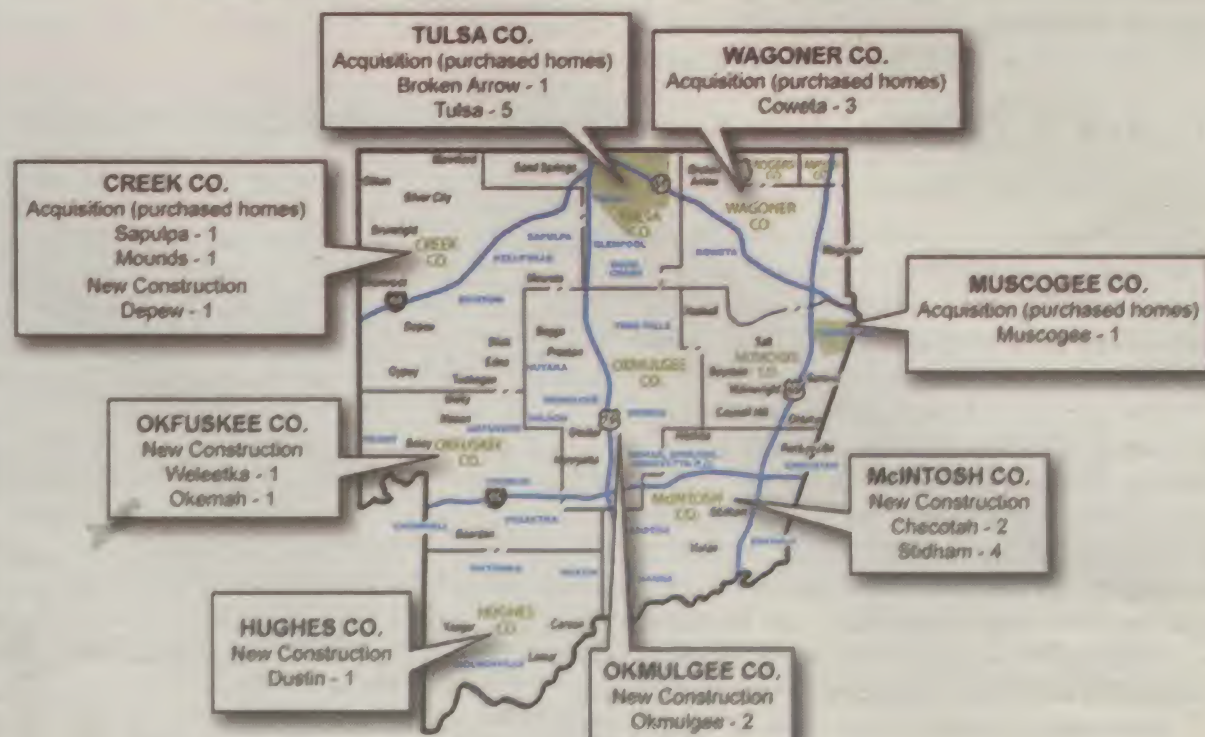


Pictured above is one of the 10 new construction homes presently under construction by the Housing Authority. This house is located in Hughes County.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DIVISION OF HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DIVISION OF HOUSING PRESENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION HOMES



Senior Services offers diplomas for military veterans

OKMULGEE — Many veterans had to sacrifice their education to serve their country in times of war. Senior Services is now offering assistance to those interested in receiving their diploma.

Those interested must send their name, name of their school, last year in school, and the years attended to Jackson Barnett, Senior Services Manager. Information may be sent to P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. For more information call (918) 732-7723.

Communications to offer senior portrait package

OKMULGEE — The Communications Department is offering a high school senior portrait and announcement package to tribal citizens beginning Oct. 1.

The package will include the following: 2 - 8 x 10; 2 - 5 x 7's; 8 - 3 x 5's; 27 wallets; and one, eight proof picturefolio. Extras may be purchased at \$10 per sheet.

Prices range from \$50 to \$100 based on income. Digital announcements will be offered in increments of 8 for \$6. For more information contact Mallory Bible or Wilma Murphy at (918) 732-7637.

Oklahoma Farm Service Agency program announcements

OKMULGEE — In full support of President George W. Bush's recent directive to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to sustain the environmental benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced a General CRP 29 that began August 30.

Allen Klaus, County Executive Director for Okmulgee County FSA, explains that CRP Sign-up 20 is offered for those acres currently enrolled in CRP and set to expire September 30 2004 or 2005. According to Klaus, eligible crop land never before enrolled in CRP will also be considered for enrollment under General CRP Sign-up 29.

"As further expansion to the CRP program, President Bush has announced a couple of new initiatives including a Bobwhite quail initiative and an expanded wetland program designed to enhance wetlands and play lake areas," said Klaus. "Provisions and eligibility guidelines for these and other new CRP components will be forthcoming as USDA works through the development process."

In light of the projected 16 million acres of CRP set to expire in 2007 and an additional 6 million acres to expire in 2008, President Bush addressed his vision for the future of the CRP program - the nation's largest, voluntary conservation program offered for private lands. In a continued effort to restore, enhance, and protect environmentally sensitive land, build on producer stewardship and enhance wetland and wildlife acres, the President expressed his commitment to reenrolling as many CRP acres as possible up to a maximum of 39.2 million acres nationwide.

"Producers and landowners need to understand that CRP Sign-up 29 is completely separate from potential re-enrollment of acres expiring in 2007 or 2008," said Klaus. "No provisions for these acres will be made until the 120-day public comment period has ended."

Individuals interested in making public comment pertaining to managing the large number of acres set to expire in

3 - 4 years, managing the future CRP sign-ups, evaluating the program's environmental effectiveness or other related topics of concern can weigh-in on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

For more information on the CRP Sign-up 29 or public comment on the future of CRP, contact the Okmulgee County FSA office at 719 E 8th Street, Suite D, or visit the USDA website at www.usda.gov or may call 756-0850.

Foster parents association requests assistance

HASKELL — The Haskell County Foster Parents Association requests assistance both in the form of people willing to be foster parents and monetarily.

Monies donated to the association are used for various purposes, including purchasing clothes for children taken into foster care, school supplies, and for Christmas presents and a Christmas dinner for all the children.

Those interested in helping out or for more information, please contact: Haskell County Foster Parents Association, 20654 N. CR 4500, Stigler, OK 74462 or call at (918) 967-4332.

National Council creates reintegration department

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved a law creating a reintegration department. The purpose of this department is to provide vital services to the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation that are incarcerated or released from an instate penal or juvenile institution and provide protection to society through the control and rehabilitation of these individuals.

The Department will provide a large number of important services. Prior to release, they will assist with diagnosis and counseling, program information and parole hearings, family counseling and visitation, education and supervision seminars, community resource de-

velopment, and release status report. After release the services offered will include employment, referrals to community resources, referrals for housing, and various preventative activities.

This department will create four new jobs: coordinator; case manager for females; case manager for males; and a secretary. This act was signed by the Principal Chief A. D. Ellis on September 1 and went into effect immediately.

For more information, contact Dr. Elise Berryhill Taylor at (918) 758-1910.

Reunions

Francis Reunion

EUFAULA — The Francis reunion will be held at Artussee Indian Church Sept. 25. Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish. The church is located four miles west on Hwy. 9 from Eufaula, then two miles south. For more information, contact Anna King at (918) 437-5953.

Little Springs 40th Anniversary Reunion

OKLAHOMA CITY — Little Springs Church is having their 40th Anniversary Reunion Sept. 25. All former members are welcome to attend and are asked to bring old pictures and a covered dish. For more information, contact Leona Brooks at (405) 379-7264 or Chicken (Delores) Factor at (405) 677-2925.

Haskell Reunion

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Haskell Indian Nations Alumni Association of Oklahoma invites all Haskell Alumni and friends to the annual reunion at the Biltmore Hotel located at I-40 and Meridian.

For more information, contact Leon Yahola at (918) 616-3757 or Kenneth Scott at (918) 628-0969. Golfers contact Simon Mitchell at (405) 672-7923.

Honor Guard to participate in Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian grand opening ceremony

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will celebrate its Grand Opening on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

The Creek Nation Honor Guard, along with Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, National Council representatives, Creek Nation Royalty, and Muscogee elderly, will be participating in the grand opening ceremonies by carrying in the United States, Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and P.O.W. flags during the procession. The Muscogee attendees will be meeting in front of the National Museum of American History on Tuesday at 7:20 a.m.



August District Court filings

Civil Actions:

- Robert Strong v. Barbara West
- Star Loans v. Russell Jacobs

Protective Orders:

- Doretha James v. Sylvester Watashe, Sr.
- Jeremy Barnett v. Troy Turnham
- Nancy Davis v. Randall Billy
- Rickey Perez v. Tammy Perez Pittman
- Minniefee Wilson v. Richard Williamson, Jr.
- Elizabeth Beamis v. Gilbert Beamis
- Jentry Pye v. Shawn Pye
- Patricia Shepherd v. Justin Shepherd

Criminal - Felony:

- MCN v. Elizabeth Pickering
ct. 1 Aggravated Battery
- MCN v. Kenneth Doty
ct. 1 Cheating by Check

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN v. Alexis Perez
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct

Traffic:

- MCN v. Danielle Haynes
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Danielle Haynes
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Derrick Bowen
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Buel Dean Hamilton
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Allen James Whitson
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Candis Henslee
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Omar Hawkins
ct. 1 Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

- David Birdcreek v. Cynthia Birdcreek
- Rebecca McAfee v. Matthew McAfee
- Nancy Davis v. Randall Billy
- Elizabeth Beamis v. Gilbert Beamis
- Nedra Adams v. Ryan Adams
- Jamie Frazier v. Eugene Barnes
- Jentry Pye v. Shawn Pye

Legal Notices

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2004-12

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff
vs. Terro Winn, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 27th day of May, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **TERRO WINN**, appears pro se and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Public Intoxication (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707)** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Nine (9) months** in the custody of the Lighthorse Police.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant's plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CV 2003-20

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
CHARLES COOKER, an individual and **ALICE FREEMAN**, an individual, Plaintiffs vs. **ESTER HARLEY GRONA**, an individual, Defendant

JUDGMENT

The above-captioned matter came before this Court for Jury trial on June 7, 2004. Present were Plaintiffs Alice Freeman and Charles Cooker, their attorney William P. Tunell, Jr., and Defendant Ester Harley Grona, acting pro se. The jury was empaneled and sworn, heard the evidence, the charges of the Court, and the argument of counsel, and returned its verdict in favor of Plaintiff Alice Freeman in the amount of \$1,000 (\$500 being assessed as special damages and \$500 being assessed as punitive damages).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THE Plaintiff Alice Freeman has recovered judgment of and from Defendant Ester Harley Grona for the Sum of \$1,000.00 for all of which let execution issue.

DATED this 10th day of June, 2004
/s/ Patrick E. Moore, Presiding Judge

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CRF 2003-26

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff
vs. **GIBBS: Dewayne**, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 30th day of June, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **Dewayne Gibbs**, appears with his counsel, Cynthia Pickering and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Embezzlement, Theft and False Accounts** and **COUNT TWO: Embezzlement, Theft and False Accounts** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Three (3) months** until the 30th day of September, 2004.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant's plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

Nike program inspires Indians to "Just Do It"

Sam McCracken, who leads Nike's Native American Business program, says the growth of interest in American Indians in participating in the company's diabetes prevention program has been keeping him going the last few years.

McCracken, a member of the Ft. Peck tribes, became a Nike employee in 1997, working in the company's human resources department to revitalize its Native American network. He then took charge of Nike's Native American Diabetes Program; and his role has since expanded to include other American Indian projects, including one with the Office of Indian Education School Program and the recently signed memo of understanding with Indian Health Service to promote healthy life-styles.

McCracken said the secret to increasing the participation of Native Americans in all these programs is through inspiration. "If you inspire them, proper nutrition and fitness all fall into place," he said.

Nike partners with the Native American Diabetes Program, which provides incentives to northwest tribes with prevention programs. It also serves as host of "Train to Trainer," an event in which 100 representatives from the 36 tribes convene to share best practices.

The Office of Indian Education School program allows Bureau of Indian Affairs schools to directly buy Nike products at wholesale prices. "The memo of understanding is the first ever between a for-profit firm and the Indian Health Service," McCracken said.

Nike is lending its expertise to the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention national campaign, which will include a summit to be held in Washington D.C. in September, scheduled to coincide with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Nike also sponsors a WINGS program, which promotes running as a way to enhance self-esteem among American Indian youth. In conjunction with that, it has begun to offer grants, such as one to help the Cherokee Nation's Sequoyah High School refurbish its track. "To receive grants, tribes apply and a committee determines acceptance," McCracken said. "These programs are about building relationships. I think I have a unique ability to build those relationship, and build trust with the tribes. I wouldn't steer them in the wrong direction."

Grant applications can be mailed to: 1 Bowerman Drive, Beaverton, OR 97005.

Income gap widens between rich and poor

By Leigh Strope
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Over two decades, the income gap has steadily increased between the richest Americans, who own homes and stocks and got big tax breaks, and those at the middle and bottom of the pay scale, whose paychecks buy less.

The growing disparity is even more pronounced in the recovering economy. Wages are stagnant and the middle class is shouldering a larger tax burden. Prices for health care, housing, tuition, gas and food have soared.

The wealthiest 20 percent of households in 1973 accounted for 44 percent of the total U.S. income, according to the Census Bureau. Their share jumped to 50 percent in 2002, while everyone else's fell. For the bottom fifth, the share dropped from 4.2 percent to 3.5 percent.

Jobs and economy top the list of voter concerns this year. President Bush touts a strong economy that is growing, but polls find that Americans have doubts and think jobs are scarce. John Kerry is trusted more on the economy, with Democrats talking regularly of "two Americas," divided between the rich and everyone else.

That argument has merit, some private economist say. "For those working the bottom half of the pay scale, they're under an enormous amount of pressure," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com

New government data also show that President Bush's tax cuts have shifted the overall tax burden to the middle class from the wealthiest Americans.

"We're just trying to get ahead," said Debbie Reames, 49, of Raytown, Mo., whose bank job of 24 years was outsourced in February. "But it seems like we climb a few rungs and then we fall back again."

Reames has a new secretarial job, which pays \$7,000.00 a year less than her bank job, and she works catering jobs for extra money. Her husband, Russ, can no longer work after an injury. One son is finishing college and another will start in the fall. So the family budget tightened. That meant fewer cable channels, more meals at home, postponed doctor appointments,

missed vacations, delayed credit card payments, all to "keep the wolf away from the door," she said.

The U.S. jobs market is soft, sending wages down. Hiring came to a near standstill last month, with companies adding just 32,000 new jobs overall, stunning economists who had expected seven times as many.

More than 1 million jobs have been added back to the 2.6 million lost since Bush took office, but they pay less and offer fewer benefits, such as health insurance. The new jobs are concentrated in health care, food services, and temporary employment, firms all lower-paying industries. Temp agencies alone account for about a fifth of all new jobs. Three in five pay below the national median hourly wage—\$13.53, said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo.

On a weekly basis, the average wage of \$525.84 is at the lowest level since October 2001. The income gap is showing up in booming sales of luxury items. Porsche Cars North America Inc. says sales are up 17 percent for the year. Strong sales at Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue overshadow lackluster sales at stores such as Wal-Mart, Sears and Payless Shoes.

Real estate agent Lance Anderson, 38, of Overland Park, Kan., expects a record sales year, as homeowners upgrade to more expensive homes and commercial clients expand. He recently took his family to Disney World for a two-week Florida vacation. "My clientele, it seems as a whole, has seen positive growth," he said. So his family, including three children, now eat out more often and spend more on clothes. They recently bought two new cars and anticipate buying a larger house in the next few years.

Economists say wages should rise as companies boost hiring. But the growing gap between the haves and have nots will remain.

Technology has eliminated many U.S. jobs, as has global competition, particularly from low-wage countries such as China. Highly skilled, educated workers in America will thrive as demand rises, Sohn said, while low-skilled jobs remain vulnerable to out-sourcing.

Leadership transition for Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs David Anderson has announced that Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Aurene M. Martin plans to leave her post in September and that Mike Olsen, currently the Counselor to the Assistant Secretary, will assume many of the duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary effective immediately.

Martin informed Interior Secretary Gale Norton of her plans to leave the Department effective September 10 to pursue employment in the private sector. Ethics guidelines established to protect departing employees and the Department from potential conflict-of-interest issues have prompted Martin to seek recusal from any and all potential issues which may be of interest to prospective employers, prompting Olsen's designa-

tion to assume the duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Mike Olsen, Anderson's selection to assume the duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, has served as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary since May of 2003, with particular emphasis on natural resources and land use issues. Previously, Olsen served as Director of the Office of Native American and Insular Affairs for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee of Resources.

"Mike Olsen has been instrumental in helping to resolve difficult natural resource issues - often bridging the gap between fiercely held opinions on these contentious matters," Anderson said. "Mike's determination to help Native people and his dedication as a public servant has made him my choice for this new assignment."

Ocmulgee Celebration ranks in Top 20 for Southeast

By Joshua Slane

MACON, GA. — Work hard, play Hard. While the majority of us know more about the first than the second, the Ocmulgee mounds are going to be a sight for the second on September 18 through 19. The Ocmulgee National Monument will be hosting Ocmulgee Indian Celebration, which has been ranked one of the top 20 events happening in the Southeast.

Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Events will include arts and crafts, music, dancing, history, and storytelling.

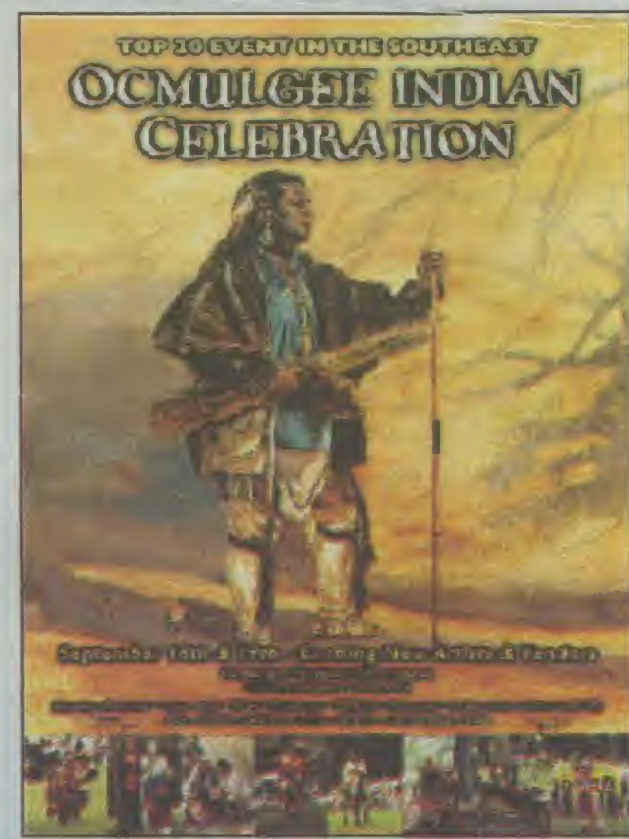
The Ocmulgee Indian Celebration honors the heritage of the Southeast's indigenous people, especially the Muscogee (Creek) people. It also promotes wise stewardship of the nation's public lands, and salutes local public agencies. It has won many awards and has been widely acclaimed by educators and Native American groups. And like the Discovery Lab and Teacher's Guide, it has been widely emulated.

Many people are wondering what the mounds are. The Ocmulgee mounds are a memorial to the antiquity of man in the Southeastern corner of the

continent. The Ocmulgee National Monument preserves a continuous record of human life in the Southeast from the earliest times to the present. From Ice-Age hunters to the Muscogee (Creek) people of historic times, there is evidence of 12,000 years of human habitation.

One period stands out. Between 900 A.D. and 1200 A.D., a skillful farming people lived on this site. Known as the Mississippians, they were part of a distinctive culture which crystallized about 750 A.D. in the middle Mississippi Valley. Over the next seven centuries they spread along riverways throughout much of the central and eastern United States. The Mississippians brought a more complex way of life to the region and in Ocmulgee they left behind eight earthen mounds and the remains of a ceremonial earthlodge.

The monument today consists of two units separated by two miles of riverine wetlands along the Ocmulgee River. The main unit is adjacent to the city of Macon, an urban area with a population of 118,000. The isolated Lamar mounds and Village unit can be visited by special permit.



By Wanda A Greene

This is a true story about the Trail of Tears. Three Euchee people were rounded up on a "mop up" operation by the federal government and the local militia in Lauderdale County Alabama, circa 1839. They were taken to what the local Native peoples called "Singing River," today it is known as the Tennessee River.

Loaded on a large keel boat in Tuscumbia, Alabama, it carried them down river about thirty miles where they were put on wagons and removed to the Indian Nations of Oklahoma. Each had a numbered tag to wear to the Nations. Te-lah-nay's number was fifty nine and her sister, Wah-na-lee wore number sixty. Oo-leoo-mute, a unrelated elderly Euchee man, who was accepted by the two sisters as a grandfather figure, was also tagged. Muscogee and Chickasaw people were also collected in this event and forcibly removed to what is now Oklahoma.

Languages were shared and became part of the girl's language skills. These were young women when they were found and sent on their journey toward Muskogee or Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Records show they did arrive and that is where the trail ends for two of them. However, Te-lah-nay learned English on the way to Oklahoma. "When I got to the Nations I listened to the rivers and streams out there and there were

no songs," she said.

Being very observant of her surroundings during her travel, this young lady did something very unique. She missed the river and her homeland so much she began her long walk back to Florence, Alabama. "The reason my sister, Wah na lee, did not come back with me was because she is like a wild flower, she can grow anywhere," stated Te-lah-nay.

The journey handed her many obstacles and maneuvers over the three to four years before locating her home. Education concerning food, the stars, land, weather, medicines, and much more were taught to Te-lah-nay at an extremely early age. Her survival depended on her early teachings as a child and her remembrances saved her life. Many meals consisted of corn and crawfish during her adventure.

Returning to a hostile environment in Alabama, she hid as she would have been hung on sight. These young women had made a friendship in Florence with Miss Lottie, a Freed woman, who had sown white meat in their dress hems for their journey to Indian Territory. Yes, someone cared about what happened to these Native American girls. Miss Lottie, would become Te-lah-nay's rescuer after returning to Florence.

Tom Hendrix, Te-lah-nay's great-great grandson, has written a book about his great-

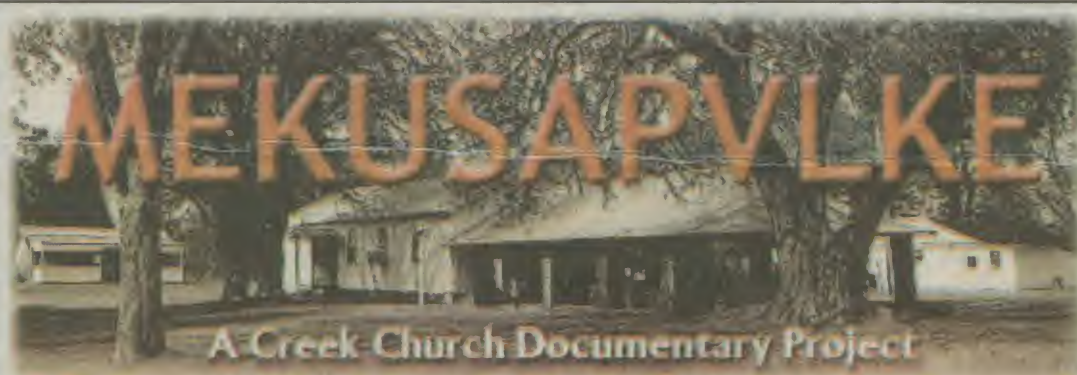
great grandmother, Te-lah-nay. The book is entitled, "If the Legends Fade."

The family of Te-lah-nay don't know what happened to the old gentleman called Oo-leoo-mute. Do you know if he was part of your family? The girls were indebted to him for his wisdom during their trip and their descendants would like to hear from you.

Wah-na-lee's whereabouts is also unknown. Are you related to her? She married a man named William Chesa or Chisca. Another part of history arose regarding a person only named Billie who had some connection to the Freed people. Making a long story short if you are related or information regarding Oo-leoo-mute, Wah-na-lee, about Te-lah-nay's journey, or knowledge about any relatives of these individuals or have a story about these events, contact 918-366-9851.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The staff of the MNN would like to apologize to the Seminole Nation for a mistake published in last month's issue. It was reported that the Seminoles were traditionally a Pow-Wow tribe, they are not. Our staff would like to thank Mr. Spain of the Historic Preservation Office at the Seminole Nation for pointing this mistake out to me. Again, the MNN staff would like to express our sincerest apologies.



"An artist collaboration between a writer, a photographer, and the Muscogee people."

MEKUSAPVLKE is a photo documentary project using narrative and text to support the photographs. It is not a history project per-se. The goals are to document the Muscogee Creek churches



Tulmochusee Baptist Church, 2003, Photo courtesy: Tom Fields

and the unique Christian culture of the Muscogee people.

The research and fieldwork will be within the lands of the Oklahoma Creek people and will include several denominations. The early focus of this project will be with the older traditional churches and their events and rites, the families and communities, the elders, the key leaders, hymns and song, food and feast, and the youth of today.

"I have seen the people of the church culture change with time," says Tom Fields, coordinator of MEKUSAPVLKE. "The Creek churches (and our tribe) are at a point in time when the elders are passing away, and when they go we will be left with only doctrine and customs, without the personal historical thread to the past to guide us. I want to photograph those elders who have personal knowledge and experience with that past so the next generation will be able

to see and read about their lives, the traditions, and the unique customs of the church culture as it is today."

Born in Tahlequah and the son of a Creek minister, Tom has attended film school in Santa Fe, New Mexico and photography school in Tulsa.

His exhibiting career began when two of his photographs were accepted at Tulsa's Philbrook Museums Annual Indian Art show in 1979, the first photographs ever accepted into the show. Recently his work is part of the contemporary art exhibit, *Who Stole the Teepee*, at the National Museum of the American Indian, New York City.

Fields work is most influenced by his surroundings. "I've learned to photograph what's close to me, physically, and spiritually," said Fields.

He has wanted to do this project for several years. Being a photographer and video producer, he considers himself an artist who believes in the educational and historical importance of this work.

Tom has formed an advisory board to guide the



Salt Creek UMC 2002, Photo courtesy: Tom Fields

project and assist in selecting the final body of work for the exhibition. They also make recommendations for further use of the information gathered.

The plan is to develop a traveling museum exhibit during Oklahoma's centennial in 2007, with a book, CD and other relevant educational materials.

He has another project in the future. Fields says, "I would like the next photo project to be about people of the tribal towns. I have visited some of the younger tribal town mekkos, and they do appreciate the importance of documenting their town."

Tom has a website he has created for his work on this project. The website includes a few selected photographs of churches and some members. If you would like to see the pictures or submit individual narratives, stories about experiences, or any other relevant information about the Creek Church experience, go to <http://www.nativefields.com/creekchurchproject/index.htm>.

Church Events

Church showing Passion of Christ movie

HENRYETTA — Hickory Ground Baptist Church will be hosting a free showing *The Passion of the Christ* on Sept. 18 or Oct. 2. The movie begins at 7:30 p.m. and seating is limited. Concession will be available.



The church is located from the junction of Main Street and Lake Road in Henryetta, go south 4 1/4 miles, then the road will curve and go east 2 1/2 miles to Salem Baptist Church, then go south approximately 3 1/2 miles and this road will curve eastward to the Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church sign. For more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 650-0388.

High Springs Fall Revival

OKEMAH — High Springs Baptist Church will be having a Fall Revival September 20 through 24. Services begin at 7 p.m. with different churches giving devotionals nightly. The church is located five miles south of Okemah on Highway 27.

Greenleaf Church S.S. Promotion/Fun Day

OKEMAH — Greenleaf Baptist Church is having a Sunday School Promotion/Fun Day on September 25 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The focus of this fun day is to increase their Sunday school attendance of mainly ages three to fourteen and our outreach.

Activities include: turtle race (bring your own turtle); scavenger hunt (bring a bible); sack race; tug-a-war; cake walk; water balloons; basketball throw and tricycle race (ages 3 to 5). Everyone welcome.

Greenleaf Church is located two miles west of Okemah on Highway 56 and a quarter mile south.

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Superintendent appreciates road work

PRESTON — The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church recently held their 162nd session at the Northeast District Center.

One of the many things the delegates and members of the churches appreciated about the event was the presence of the new paved roads leading to the Center. Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Okmulgee County commissioners worked jointly on this project.

"On behalf of the 89 Native American churches of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, I would like to express our appreciation to the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Okmulgee County Commissioners for providing the funds and manpower for the paving of this road," said David Wilson Conference Superintendent. It is refreshing to see our tribes and local agencies working together on projects that benefit so many people."

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the July 27, extraordinary session.

May 11, special session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **Lena Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee District; and **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (16-3-0) NCA 04-130, authorizing a special appropriation to assist five (5) parents to attend the graduation ceremony for their youth all of whom are Creek Nation Youth Lighthorse Explorers;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; representative **Nichols** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved as amended (13-5-0) TR 04-101, authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gaming operations authority board to exercise temporary jurisdiction and control over the Duck Creek Indian community center gaming center;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; and **Fields**, Tukvptce

July 31, quarterly session

Absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-097, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an "abbreviated standard form of agreement between owner and architect" and a "standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum" for the construction of a new Creek Nation Okmulgee Casino and the demolition of the existing Creek Nation Okmulgee Casino;

- approved (15-5-1) TR 04-098, confirming the nomination of **Jason W. Nichols** to serve on the gaming operations authority board,

voting no were **Tiger**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Williams**, Okmulgee;

abstain was: **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved (17-4-0) TR 04-099, confirming the nomination of **William Buck** to serve on the gaming operations authority board;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**; and **Quiett**, Tulsa;

- approved (21-0-0) TR 04-102, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 6.0124

acres of tribal property located in McIntosh county;

- approved (20-0-1) NCA 04-102, authorizing a special appropriation for activities to increase voter registration of tribal members and to create a committee to oversee those activities;

abstain Jones, Okmulgee;

- approved as amended (20-1-0) NCA-107, authorizing a special appropriation to fund the tribal complex officer position;

voting no was: **Harjo**, Creek;

- approved as amended (14-7-0) NCA 04-115, authorizing a special appropriation to the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) association to administer social services to citizens in the Oklahoma City area;

voting no were:

Parish, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (18-3-0) NCA 04-120, authorizing a special appropriation for the continued support of the Okmulgee County YMCA water play park;

- approved (21-0-0) NCA 04-128, appropriating funds for the payment of accrued interest on a loan with Bank One for the construction of a healthcare clinic in Wagoner County;

- return to committee (21-0-0) NCA 04-131, amending Title 16, chapter four of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and amending and repealing certain laws to reorganize the exiting structure of lighthorse police;

speaker **Yahola** relinquished the chair to second speaker **Richard Berryhill** to address the following three bills;

- approved as amended (21-0-0) NCA 04-133, authorizing a special appropriation to the mound oversight committee for improvements to the mound auditorium;

- approved (20-1-0) NCA 04-134, authorizing a special appropriation to Muscogee (Creek) chartered Indian Communities to participate in the grand opening of the National museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.;

voting no were: **Notaro**, McIntosh;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 04-135, approving the Principal Chief's three year plan to program tribal judgment funds for fiscal years 2005, 2006, & 2007;

Second speaker **Berryhill** turned the chair back over to Speaker **Yahola**;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (19-1-0) NCA 04-138, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to legislative branch fiscal year 2004 budget;

voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (20-0-0) NCA 04-142, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to out-of-boundaries citizens (aka 9th district)

August 9, Removal hearing

Absent were: **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

removal hearing — Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma;

- approved to remove **Marshall Hardin** (14-3-2);

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; and **Fields**, Tukvptce;

abstain were: **Wind**, Okfuskee and **Jones**, Okmulgee;

- approved to remove **Carrie Williams** (12-5-2);

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Wind**, Okfuskee and **Jones**, Okmulgee

- approved to remove **Anderson Hale** (15-4-0);

voting no were: **Wind**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

August 12, Emergency session

Absent were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) TR 04-091, confirming the nomination of **Rhol Perryman** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Housing Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) TR 04-092, confirming the nomination of **Jim B. Harjo** to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

- approved as amended (20-0-0) TR 04-093, confirming the nomination of **L. Charles Frank** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

- approved as amended (19-1-0) TR 04-103, confirming the nomination of **Larry Cahwee** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

voting no was: **Fields**, Tukvptce.



Tukvptce District Representative Shirlene Ade

HOLDENVILLE — First of all, I want to thank you for placing your confidence in me by electing me to serve you on the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. These first eight months have been filled with very fast paced activities and full agendas.

Clothing for school children was a consuming interest and concern of mine during my campaign. Health care and accountability of resources within the Division of Health Administration was a strong concern. The outside boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation when applying for emergency assistance was also a grave concern. The quality and timeliness of service provided by the Creek Nation Housing Authority was in need of much improvement. Quality of services and courtesy to the public by various service program managers was less than optional. All of these issues and concerns lend confusion, frustration and wasted resources for the Creek citizens we are here to serve. These were some of the issues that I felt the strongest about and influenced my decision to run for office.

Since the election, the National Council has increased the school clothing allowance to \$200. I sponsored legislation for over income school children regardless of place of residence. My goal is to see the \$200 amount raised to \$250. Attractive quality clothes encourage our school children to strive for excellence in education. These funds are to be made available prior to the beginning of each school year.

I have introduced legislation to transfer the daily management and monitoring



of the accounting function from the Division of Health Administration to the Office of the Controller. This is in compliance with Title 37 Sub Chapter 7; subsection 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Codes of Law.

I have cosponsored legislation to establish permanent eligibility guidelines for an emergency hardship program. This program, if passed, will allow the expansion of the program to reach tribal citizens that were previously ineligible for assistance regardless of where they reside. Assistance may be given to any eligible household once a year up to \$500 based on need, as determined by the Social Services Department.

I voted in favor of transferring the Creek Housing Authority from the jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation within the Office of the Chief. This included a complete replacement of Housing Administration and Board of Commissioners.

The level of cooperation and courtesy by program managers to the public has noticeably improved; however, there is room for further improvement. I commend the Chief for addressing this issue by implementing quality staff conversions and program adjustments.

I will continue to strive for effectiveness and simplification of our systems and trim the bureaucracy in promoting efficiency and quality of our services to you, the creek citizens. Again, thank you for your support, confidence and trust.

Shirlene M. Ade, Tukvptce District Representative

Okfuskee District Representative Sandi Golden

WELEETKA — I took time off from the National Council and I wanted to explain my absence. In August, I lost my mother. Her health situation worsened in June, and I made the decision to stay home with her until the end.

I apologize for any inconvenience to Creek citizens, especially those who live in the Okfuskee District. I am sure there are things I have not done, but I have picked up where I left off.

One of the last and most important activities in which I was involved in was the "Shake the Vote" campaign. At the Creek Nation Festival, we set up a booth to register voters. There were several council representatives who volunteered their time to help register voters. On Sunday, we even had several youngsters volunteer. They helped pick up trash and take up chairs in front of the stage. I think the oldest was 10 years old. They were great!

Voting in the 2004 election is critical. People who vote already get what they want. Everybody knows Indians don't vote, so why should we spend our time trying to get them registered? Because if we get everyone registered, we can get them to the polls. It would be an awesome sight when all the registered Indian voters show up at the polls in their red shirts! Oksatvs!

We now have an established committee who will be working on ideas to get the communities involved. The National Council appropriated monies to assist in the effort. Hopefully, Creek communities will host more activities to include voter registration. Additionally, we hope communities will pull together volunteers to provide transportation to the polling sites. The last day to register before one can vote in the November election is October 8. If you don't know where the polling site is located, call the county election board. Ask about voting before election day.

Besides the obvious presidential election, many state candidates are running and are also keeping their eyes on the Indian vote. In other states, the Indian vote has been a deciding factor in the selection of state representatives. How many county positions could be decided by Indian voters?



There are also state questions on gaming and tobacco. As we all well know, the state is becoming more sophisticated in coming up with ideas to get money from tribes. I am studying these issues very closely. Right now, it appears they have dreamed up another way to tax the tribes for more money. I believe tribes are making money on the short run, but will continue to have the state circling outside the casinos! I think they need our casino money to bail out horse racing and will use tobacco tax for cancer research. What did the tribes get from the big tobacco settlement that came back to the state? We need to find out.

If our government would stop making it so easy for companies to go out of the country, we might not have lost so many jobs. Those companies would rather work with foreigners than work with tribes in their own back yard! It has really hurt the small, rural communities.

On the Council side, we make laws that effect the whole Creek Nation. Many though decisions come before us each council session. I have been asked why I vote no on some issues. I think we would not be good lawmakers if we voted all the same because we didn't want to look bad or because we didn't like someone.

I try to look at the whole picture rather than just what we have on the table. Most importantly, we have to acknowledge that Creek communities are very different. For example, there are communities with casinos and smoke shops and there are just as many without. That is why I believe we have to make decisions based on need rather than what looks good for what we want.

In the last year, we have lost many jobs in the Okfuskee District. But I think the Creek Nation has contributed to the local economy by providing employment opportunities, affordable housing, educational assistance and also, health care.

Although we don't always agree, I think we work together with the administration for the very best with enough for everyone. Our current administration is making strides in that area. Together everyone achieves more.

Sandra Golden, Okfuskee District Representative

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center

Chief Financial Officer

Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee

RN Supervisor - Sapulpa

LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)

Cook's Aide - Dewar

Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention Program

Health System Administrator - Okmulgee

Head Cook - Muskogee

Services Research Assistant - BHS

Nurse Practitioner - Okmulgee

Billing Technician - Okmulgee

Coding Specialist - CNCH

Behavioral Health Clinician - BHS

Registered Nurse - CNCH

The Human Resources Department staff follows well-defined policies and procedures regarding the staffing process. Each position has a closing date that must be adhered to without exception. Some positions are more difficult to staff than others and are recruited as "Open Until Filled". The Personnel Department must receive applications for a minimum of five days before the first panel of qualified applicants is provided to the hiring official. Applications will be received until the position is staffed in these circumstances. The Division applies Tribal and Indian Preference in all hiring and employment decisions in accordance with Tribal Ordinance as established by National Council Act 81-40. To receive preference an applicant must submit verification in the form of a CDIB (Certified Degree of Indian Blood) Card or Citizenship Card. For more information call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291 or visit their website at www.muscogeehealth.org

Creek Nation Casino

Guest Services:

This job will vary in duties. You will be required to be a front door greeter, work in the game room, or any job you are needed for Marketing.

Promotion Host:

Must be willing to greet and supply guest with whatever they need. Must follow directions and be able to work on your own.

Promotions Supervisor:

Must be a people person who can take on the responsibilities of the job. Preferably some college, but job experience will be considered. Must be willing to work as a team member with other management and employees.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Housing Authority Deputy Director:

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from a four year college or university and three to five years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Child Treatment Worker, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services:

Qualifications: Bachelors Degree in Social Work, Mental Health, or a related Behavioral Science. Must have experience in dealing with crisis situations, and exhibit a dedicated desire to provide service for their client. Must possess a valid driver's license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Child Placement Worker, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services:

Qualifications: Bachelors degree in Social Work or other related field and one year experience in professional social work. Masters Degree is preferred. Knowledgeable of Creek language. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Intake Specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services:

Qualifications: Bachelors Degree in Social Work or related Behavioral Science, or experience and education equivalent to a Bachelors Degree, and one year professional social work.

Must submit and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license.

Outreach/Resource Specialist (part time), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution:

Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be computer literate. Must be a self starter and work well with the public. Must possess a valid drivers license and a good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary back ground checks and drug testing.

Teacher's Aide (part time), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Head Start:

High school Diploma or equivalent. Must have knowledge and experience with Indian interpersonal relationships, previous experience in Early Childhood or Child Development in dealing with children. CDA or Associates Degree in Early Childhood is preferred. Must have a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Bus Driver/Maintenance (Part time), Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start:

Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must obtain an Oklahoma Bus Drivers Certificate, CDL, CPR and First Aide Certificate. Must possess a valid drivers license and a good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian Preference. Send applications to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services; P.O. Box 580; Okmulgee, OK 74447; fax, 918-756-2284; or e-mail them to jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment application is also available in PDF format on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact Josh Slane 732-7637 or e-mail jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov for information on rates or to place your ad.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to secure multiple task order awards

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) is divided into three divisions: Information Technology, Fire and Security and Construction. Currently all three divisions are pursuing awards. The Technical Division is currently pursuing contracts in professional services much like professional service contracts with Chickasaw, Choctaw, and other tribes. September 7th, 2004 MNBE was awarded a one year contract through the United States Army Medical Command.

"Seventy-five percent of all federal spending occurs during the last 45 days of the fiscal year, generally in September," stated Michael Nalley, MNBE Director. "We expect at least five more task order awards within this month."

"The Construction Division recently received an award for the contract to build the Okmulgee Casino," stated Woody Anderson, Construction Services Division Manager.

Yet another extensive project they are pursuing is for a possible contract with JE Dunn Co. in Kansas City. JE Dunn is one of the largest general contractors in the country.

MNBE is in the process of getting their Minority Business Enterprise Certification, as well as their DBE (Disadvantage Business Enterprise) certification. JE Dunn states in their Sources Sought Notice that the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code is 236210 with a Small Business Size Standard of \$28.5 million. The prime contractor must have the capability to perform at least



MNBE Construction Division does repair work to a home made possible by the Housing Improvement Program.

20 percent of the contract work with his or her own employees. The project will range from \$25 Million to \$27 Million.

The existing building is one of the oldest at Pantex. Each section is in need of various modifications and refurbishment to bring it up to date and in line with current code and safety basis requirements. Work will consist of removal of material handling systems and mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and operations systems. Work also includes removal of roof-mounted structures, demolition of existing structures and removal of ground covering on the mounded earth

above the facility.

New work will generally consist of new material handling, mechanical, plumbing, fire protection, and electrical systems to support the operations of the facility including a high pressure fire line, new roof structures and associated equipment. A separate new administrative facility will be constructed and will house an office area, break-room, restroom and janitorial space.

As a potential contractor MNBE must possess all required permits and licenses to perform general construction work in Texas. Which they are in the process of obtaining at this time.



Selling or buying a home

Century 21

Cynthia "Janis" Fox
918-378-2679
11717 South Memorial Drive
Bixby, OK 74008
Jfox@tulsarealtors.com

A Message from the MNBE Director

September is the most active month in the Federal Fiscal Year and the most important month in the young life of the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise. This month MNBE is focused on securing multiple awards which will support all three of our operating divisions and that will provide our people with career opportunities and our Tribe with a great revenue source. Our business is focused on becoming a leading Tribal Federal Contractor. Michael Nalley, MNBE Director

Spotlight

"The 8 year old wakes up now and instead of looking for her comfort from her mother, her priority is to give comfort to her brother. This little 8 year old is trying to act like a big girl watching over her little brother like she has seen her mother do."

Just a few seconds more, just a few seconds more

Just a few seconds out of your life, that's all it's going to be. But it's better to be home just a little faster. After all, those beans and potatoes aren't going to stay hot forever. But then again, that's why we invented the microwave wasn't it, to make things just a little faster? Just a few seconds out of your life in order to not miss the best part of that television show or that ball game. You know your team plays a whole better when you are watching them.

In our fast e-mail give it to me yesterday world, we're always constantly told to slow down, but we never do. To be slow or not having the same fast paced rhythm as others, one is thought to out of touch. Right here, right now is what matters and we have to get it all done very fast!

Sometimes we think of the good old days and think of how life might just have been a little slower and easier, with less stress and less worry. Truth is, people have always been wanting to do things faster and faster, no matter what era of time you consider. Even back in Biblical times, when there were no high speed internet or last second deadlines, Jesus Christ was telling the masses not to worry and that which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature.

On a midwinters day on February 10, 2004, a Creek mother and her children, a four year old son and eight year old daughter were starting their day, traveling down the road. They proceeded on their way, but another driver had to be quick. The car that smashed them from the side, was of course, not expected. Not too many people would expect to be hit by a car that did not obey the stop sign. But they were, and to say that the sadness ends with a dark closure is not true, for the misery has only begun.

According to the statistics of the United State Bureau of Transportation in 2002, more than six million Americans were killed in traffic accidents. Many stories can be told, such as this one of the Jackson family. For grandfather Jackie Jackson, he watches everyday and sees the effects of our fast-paced, just a few seconds more, just a few seconds more society.

The eight year old wakes up now and instead of looking for her comfort from her mother, her priority is to give comfort to her brother. This little eight year old girl is trying to act like a big girl watching over her little brother like she has seen her mother do. Her little brother was also injured in the same accident that put their mother in a coma that she most likely will never recover from. In clinical terms, she is still alive, but her breath is only sustained by a machine and breathing tubes.

"Their mother loved people, and gave every individual she met an undivided attention, but she loved her family and children most of all," says Jackson. "She loved to make conversation and could speak on any subject with competency and compassion. She was considerate of others and even more so to her husband and children."

Seeing his mother motionless with tubes coming out of her was too traumatic for the son to see for a long time. He preferred

to wait for her come home, when she feels better. But now he somehow understands that she may not be coming home. So he digs down deep and has found the courage to now be able to visit his mother every chance he gets and is encouraged to talk to her, which he does. He sometimes holds her hand for a long time and tells her, "your sugar dumpling is here." He wipes her face with a wet cloth to soothe her like she used to soothe him. He took her his Donald Duck stuffed toy to keep her company for those times when he couldn't be there.

"At night," says Jackson, "that's when it's really tough. No bedtime stories, no tucking into bed, no mother listening to how her ballgames went that day. And all the while listening with that familiarly attentive smiling face they were so accustomed to seeing and the soothing voice they were accustomed to hearing. How do you comfort an eight and four year old who misses and are crying for their mother who may never come home? Not very well."

Jackson's open admission of the children having to cope is tough, but confesses how hard it is for everyone else, including the husband.

"Another special day passes since February 10," says Jackson. "July 25 is her husband's and daughter's birthday. Like all the other special occasions, Valentine, Easter, Mother's Day, and Fourth of July, the days pass on."

Usually, the Spotlight page is reserved for more pleasant stories. This month's page of the Muscogee Nation News Spotlight serves a purpose, it is for this

powerful point that needs to be made. Jackson is grateful for all the prayers and support the family has received, but has a message for someone who wanted to be too fast.

"Is the 10 seconds of your time you were trying to save by not stopping at the stop sign worth it? Your momentary careless act has physically and emotionally damaged two children by taking away their mother, robbed a loving husband of a wife he loved more than life itself, and provides all of her friends and family with a lifetime of sadness and terrible sense of loss."



Is the 10 seconds of your time you were trying to save by not stopping at the stop sign worth it?

Shop talk with Gerald

Unless you have been living under a big rock somewhere, you have at least taken notice of the Summer Olympic games that took place in Athens, Greece. The American athletes certainly shined winning the most amount of any medals of any country participating. Although Muscogee (Creek) athlete Brian Berryhill was not a part of the U.S. Olympic track squad, another person with Native American heritage was able to serve as a coach. Howard Gayle Hatch, served as the Heach Coach of the U.S. Olympic weightlifting team. Hatch, who is of Delaware descent, was recently inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame during ceremonies held at Tulsa in January of this year. The Muscogee (Creek) Communications Department was requested to cover the ceremonies for the Native American inductees which also included Jim Warne, and Larry Joe Ramirez.

Well, we have received two nominations our *Muscogee Nation News Athlete of the Month*. In last month's edition, we requested you, the reader, to submit your nominations on a Creek athlete, high school, college, or otherwise, so they can receive some well deserved attention. We look forward to receiving more nominations next month. We know you have sons, daughters, grandkids, nephews, nieces, or friends that excel in athletics. Now is the time to let every know.

In the July issue of the MNN, we reported the first ever Native American Heavyweight no-holds barred Champion that was crowned during the fight night at Kialigee Tribal Town. The champion, RedCloud Anquoe, will look to defend his crown in October. We'll report the details as they come along.

Interesting note, the Miami Hurricane/Florida State game was postponed due to a real hurricane by the name of Francis. So what does that mean when you are named after a team and can't play when the real deal shows up. Maybe they ought to change their name and be called Miami sunshine or something.

Speaking of the college game again, the world is right again with the football flying in the air. And the pro game is going strong as well.

The Sooners are taking care of business right now, the month of October is looming right around the corner. The revenge game against Kansas State happens, as well the Red River shoot-out in Dallas.

This month is usually more telling than any others in how the Sooners will fare during the season. Hats off to the Cowboys of Oklahoma State who have started the season strong. Hopefully, The University of Tulsa can keep turning it around and have good success also!

Let us know about those Creek athletes out there!

Creek Girls Help Okmulgee Infield



Pictured, from left to right, are: Aleana Harley, Kayla Rabbit, Sammy Rabbit, Desiree Booker, and Betina Beaver



OKMULGEE— Creek girls are helping the Okmulgee High School reach high marks this year with the infield mainly comprised of Muscogee (Creek) players.

Those girls are: Desiree Booker, Sammy Rabbit, Kayla Rabbit, Betina Beaver, and Alena Harley.

Booker is the shortstop, Sammy is the pitcher, Kayla plays second base, Beaver is first base and Harley is behind the plate as the catcher.

Sammy and Kayla transferred in from Wilson schools this fall.

Coach Justin Bean, who is in his fifth year at the helm, is excited about the chances of this year's team.

"So far our record is 19 wins and 5 losses," said Bean. "And looking at those losses, three of those are to top teams in their respective classes." The Lady Bulldogs were able to avenge one loss to Sterling. Which Bean is quick to point out that star pitcher Rabbit was not on the mound due to leg injury when the loss occurred. Rabbit was near perfect in another game against McAlester, as she allowed only one hit in a 13-0 shutout. But little sister Kayla does some pitching too, the Sophomore threw a no-hitter against Victory Christian in her first start earlier this year.

The Coach will enjoy the high level of play for longer than a year. Desiree, Alena, Sammy and Betina are Juniors, and Kayla is a Sophomore.

Bean runs a philosophy that is cemented in the belief that the middle line of defense needs to be very strong. "I've always been taught that you got

to build your team right up the middle of the field," says Bean. "Your catcher, your pitcher, your shortstop, your second baseman and your center fielder. If you are strong there, you can have a good team."

Bean knows that his catcher, is certainly the main anchor of the team. "Alena is our catcher, and she is not really a catcher, but she's really a first baseman, but Sammy is such a good pitcher, that we have to have someone back there that can handle her and she is the only one other than probably Desiree or Kayla, but we have to have them at their designated places. She (Alena) makes a great sacrifice just being back there because she is not a very big girl, but she swings better than any player I have seen, she can flat out hit," says Bean proudly.

The Okmulgee Coach is really proud of his players and sees great possibilities for his pitcher. "Sammy is a division one prospect, pitching wise, she still has some maturing to do on the mound. Whenever things get a little shaky on the mound, she gets down on herself a little bit. But that just her wanting to succeed," defends Bean who understands this same attitude carries over to the other four as well. "These kids are realizing you may not succeed every single time. I always tell them if you hit a .300 average in Major League Baseball, you get in the Hall of Fame. Which means that 7 out of 10 times, you don't get on base. So there is failure that you have to deal with and they are learning to handle that."

In fact, that is the basic mentality that all five girls share. "They do not like to lose," exclaims Bean.

Upcoming sports events

Second Annual Warriors Showcase Shoot-out

DEWAR — The First Annual Warriors Showcase Shoot-out All-Indian Basketball Tournament will be held on Nov. 26 and 27 at the Dewar High School Gymnasium.

The double elimination tournament will consist of four age divisions for boys and girls: five to six years old; seven to eight years old; nine to 10 years old; and 11 to 12 years old.

"Because of the numerous requests from last year's event, we are adding a younger age division," said Lucas Taylor, Tournament Coordinator. "The grandparents love to see their grandchildren play. They made up a high percentage of our fan base on Friday last year."

Entry fees for each division is as follows: five to six years old, \$35; seven to eight, \$40; nine to 11, \$50; and 12 to 14, \$60. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15. Late entries will be accepted until Nov. 20 with an additional \$10 late fee. Money orders or cash will only be accepted.

Only eight teams per division will be accepted. Team rosters are limited to eight players. Each team member must provide a CDIB card and a copy of their birth certificate in order to participate.

New to this year's tournament is the special events, an East/West All-Star Game, 3-point contest, and hot shot contest. Plus, all the action can be seen over and over again on a DVD that will be made available after the tournament. The finals will be video taped and will include pregame, halftime, post-game interviews and an awards presentation.

Plaques and medals will be given to the first, second, and third place teams in each divisions. Trophies or plaques will be given for first in the special events.

Also, new to this year's tournament is the Holuby award. This award is given to a male and female in each division for their high energy, enthusiastic play displayed during the tournament. Because of a unforeseen and unpreventive medical emergency, Shane Holuby of Dewar may not be able to compete in this year's tournament. However, because of his outstanding attitude and character, it was the overwhelming consensus of the tournament committee to include him in this year's tournament.

"Many times we question why things like this happen," said Taylor. "But because of his courage and determination, something positive and inspiring will come out of this ordeal!"

For an entry form or for more information contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or after 5 p.m. at (918) 650-3920. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the new look communications home page on www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

MNN Athlete of the Month: Missy Fox



by Lucas Taylor

OKMULGEE — At the age of 11, Missy Fox made a decision that would test her character, as well as her father Brad's. She decided to become a pitcher. As in any sport, time is of the essence. Fox missed out on those early years of repetitious work of perfecting the art of pitching. But as any loving parent would, her father stepped in and has supported his daughter every step of the way.

"We would practice one to two hours a day, six days a week," said Brad. "Sometimes we would go twice a day. I would be at home watching television and remember something she did wrong. I couldn't get it off my mind, so I asked her if she wanted to go practice again. She was eager to go."

It's this type of attitude and determination that has allowed Fox to enjoy success time and time again on the mound. Fox, a senior at Oktaha, has pitched two perfect games in her high school career. She threw a perfect game against Oklahoma Union as a junior, and as a freshman at Checotah High School, she threw a perfect game against McAlester.

She has also secured herself a permanent spot in Oklahoma high school sports history by pitching a 22 inning game against Tahlequah her junior year, the longest regular season softball game ever played.

As far as mechanics and stamina are concerned, Fox rates as one of the state's best hurlers. At press time, Fox owned a record of 14-2 and an ERA of 0.30. What makes the stats more impressive is that she only throws two pitches, a fastball and changeup. Along with pinpoint control, Fox holds batters at bay with her old school, Roger Clemens mentality.

"At a game this year, I was behind home plate watching Missy throw," said Fox. "She threw a pitch high and tight and someone in the stands said it got away from her. I told them it

didn't. She was just letting them know they were getting too close to the plate."

It's this type of mental toughness that sets her apart from others. "Earlier this season our other pitcher became rattled by the opposing team's chatter," said Fox. "She walked the bases loaded with no outs. Coach Woods put Missy in. She struck out the next three batters."

Fox also pitched against the third ranked Henryetta Lady Knights in the Kellyville Festival early this year. Fox led Oktaha to a hard fought five to four victory. The Henryetta softball team is currently holds the top position in Class 3A.

With all the accolades Fox has gained as a pitcher, teams are finding they also have to deal with her in the batters box as well. The Muskogee Phoenix recently published stats of area players in the Muskogee area with Fox holding down the number two spots in both batting average (.514) and RBI's (18).

This type of all-state caliber play has captured the attention many area colleges, including those out of state. Central Arkansas recently arranged a campus tour for Missy and her parents. "She was overwhelmed by the experience," said Brad. "Oktaha has a town population of maybe three to four hundred. The student enrollment at Central Arkansas is 10,000."

The MNN wishes to congratulate Missy Fox on being the first MNN athlete of the Month. Along with being featured in this month's edition, she will be interviewed on the Muskogee nation News Radio program on Sept. 29. She also automatically qualifies for consideration for the MNN Athlete of the Year.

The staff of the MNN encourages our readers to submit more Creek athletes for consideration of athlete of the month.

GINA GRUENWALD

BIXBY — Funeral services for Gina Gail Gruenwald were held August 27 at New Beginnings Baptist Church with Pastor Joe Gibson officiating.

She was born November 9, 1976 in Tulsa to George and Elector Diane McClain Gruenwald.

Gina was a 1995 graduate of Bixby High School where she excelled in softball and basketball and was named to the All-State Softball team as a catcher. She graduated from Northeastern State University with a degree in Business Marketing.

Gruenwald moved to Denver in June 2003, and was working as a manager for DSW Shoes and also worked at Best Buy.

Her family warmly remembers her as a hard-working and determined young woman that loved to be challenged and would never back down from that challenge. Some of her favorite activities included playing with her dogs, roller-blading, riding bikes and especially spending time with her family.

Preceding her in death was: her father, George Gruenwald and her paternal grandparents, Virginia George and William Keith Gruenwald.

Survivors include: her mother and stepfather, of Bixby; brother, Josh of Leonard; sisters, Sarah and Emily Osborn of Bixby; grandparents, Bill and Sarah McClain of Leonard, Warren and Ann Cole of Catoosa and Grace Osborn of Pryor; numerous cousins, other relatives and good friends.

Casketbearers include: Curtis Brummett; Bobby Brown; Charlie Norton; Brian Whitehead; Willy and Clint Gruenwald. Honorary Casketbearers were Louie Brummett and Charles Villarreal Jr.

Interment was at Rest Haven Cemetery in Sperry.

MINNIE JOHNSON

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Minnie Sullivan Johnson were held August 4 at Thlopthlocco Methodist Church with Rev. Jerry Byrd officiating.

She was born in Okemah on November 7, 1924, to Jimmie and Annie King Sullivan. Minnie was a lifelong resident of Okemah and attended school at Tiger Flat.

She and Jimmie Johnson were married on May 19, 1950. Johnson was a member of Thlopthlocco Methodist Church from the age of twelve and during that time held many leadership offices. She loved watching baseball, feeding her birds, cooking and going to church.

Preceding her in death was: her parents; husband; and three brothers, Otis Sullivan, Sampson Sullivan and George Cook.

Survivors include: four sons, Luther and Johnny, both of Okemah, Daniel of Glenpool and Winslow Johnson of Sapulpa; two daughters, Ann Hinkle of Castle and Connie Lunsford of Okmulgee; three sisters, Mamie Doxtator of Alaska, Lucille Dunson of Glenpool and Leah Dunson of Okemah; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; plus a host of other family and friends.

Interment was at Thlopthlocco Church Cemetery.

MINNIE SPICER

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Minnie J. Jeffley Spicer were held August 14 at Springfield Methodist Church

with Judson Deere and David Dunson officiating.

She was born near Clearview, Oklahoma to Fannie McNac and Teewee Jeffley.

In 1947, Minnie married Eugene Golden and they had four children. She was a housewife until they divorced in 1954 and moved to Oklahoma City to begin work in funeral homes. Spicer moved back to Oklahoma City in 1970 and later, settled back home near Clearview.

Minnie was an active member of the Springfield Methodist Church until she became ill, and attended whenever she could.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; three brothers, Thomas Jeffley, John and Bill Buckley; and one great grandchild.

Survivors include: four children, Julia Davis of Wichita, Kansas, Sanford of Hennessey, Thomas E. of Oklahoma City, and Sandra Golden of Weleetka; two sisters, Rosalie Bustamante of Lawton and Alice Lindsey of Bristow; three brothers, Jesse Jeffley of Kansas City, Kansas, Edmond and Richard Buckley of Weleetka; 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.



Spicer

JAKE WILDCAT

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Rev. Jake Wildcat were held August 20 at Little Cussetah Baptist Church.

He was born in Sapulpa to Nancy Bighead and Joseph Wildcat on January 19, 1919.

Jake was one of very few full blood Eucheas remaining. He was a veteran of WWII and served in the Army as a Private, Company C, 50th signal battalion from 1942-1945.

Wildcat was a retired minister and belonged to Pickett Chapel for many years. In 1980, he was baptized by Rev. Solomon Bullett into the Southern Baptist Faith and became a member of Little Cussetah Baptist Church. He was ordained as a Baptist minister and served as Interim pastor in the late 1980's. He also served as prayer chairman of Baptist Men and was honored and received a diploma for completing 100 hours of church study courses.

Preceding him in death was: his first wife, Francis Sims Wildcat; parents; and brother, Monroe Wildcat.

Survivors include: his wife, Marina White Wildcat; daughter, Bennie Anita Drywater; stepson, Marc Fields; five grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins.

Casketbearers were: John Drywater; Kevin Harlan; Harold and Ben Naylor; Kevin Botts; Zach Pickering and Joe "Gusto" Bruner. Honorary casketbearers include: Phillip Coon; Kim and Micheal Howard; Joey, Cody, and Jake Starkey and Hoe-Kee-Mah and Mekko Harlan.

Interment was at Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

Gratitude

Our family wishes to extend a special thank you to everybody who provided food, sent flowers, monetary gifts, and most of all who said prayers and visited with the family during

our great loss.

Gordon "Chip" Williamson family

Series

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Journals written by these Spanish soldiers reflect how impressed they were with the valor and courage of the *Myskoke*. These same journals contained descriptions of handsome *Myskoke* leaders, who traveled on litters and were adorned with colorful feather decorated turbans, and on one occasion the *Myskoke* leader was a young woman, adorned with pearls and exquisite furs, the Spanish referred to her as a "Princess."

In March of 1840 De Soto entered a large town on the Ocmulgee River where he was able to regroup and prepare to move further north, however, the forests were too dense and spring floods made crossing some streams impossible, so he turned westerly and went further into the *Myskoke Confederacy*. It was here the De Soto expedition first encountered earth and wooden palisaded towns. One of the *Myskoke* towns mentioned in expedition journals is Talisi, which was located on a horseshoe bend of the Coosa River.

De Soto was then guided by local *Myskoke* to a fort named Mabila, located somewhere between the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers, Mabila, on a plain, was surrounded by a pole palisade fort, taller than three men. It was here the *Myskoke* ambushed De Soto, the battle at Mabila raged for several hours, *Myskoke* warriors were able to best the Spanish foot soldiers, but the Spanish Lancers on horseback, won the day for De Soto. Forty horses were killed, along with 20 Spanish soldiers shot in their unprotected head or neck. Twenty more died later from battle wounds and virtually all of De Soto's men received some kind of combat wound. The *Myskoke* lost 2,500 to 5,000 warriors along with the Mekko and his sister's son who was the heir.

The battle of Mabila brought De Soto's expedition to a halt, his men all wounded, believed they could never overcome such a warrior society, nor could they enslave men who lived in such a free society. De Soto's men wanted to return south, but De Soto managed to persuade them go further west into Chickasaw territory, where under a massive attack in late December 1840 De Soto lost 12 soldiers, and the Indians took 60 horses. He finally was able to make the bank of the Mississippi River, all the time being harassed by Indian warriors. Journal writers report De Soto became ill in the spring of 1542, died in May, and "was buried in the water", however, other written journals indicate his men became mutinous and threw him into the Mississippi River where he drowned.

The De Soto expedition finally, after building barges on the bank of the Mississippi River, began moving down stream in July 1542. A large war party of Native Americans, in canoes, attacked these foreigners and followed the expedition downstream for over a week, inflicting considerable losses in men and material to De Soto. When the remnants of De Soto's party reached the Gulf of Mexico, they were again attacked by local Native American warriors, who were expert in the use of 6 foot javelins.

Survivors of De Soto's expedition finally reached the safety of Port of Panuco on September 10, 1543. The expedition lost over 400 men and virtually everything but the clothes on their backs.

The *Myskoke* relieved the horse from De Soto, and gained valuable experience concerning Spanish conquistadores which would benefit them 150 years later, when the *Myskoke Confederacy* again would have to deal with imperial Spain and other European powers.

Film to portray triumphant story of a Native American boxer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rick Schroder, first time writer/director, knew gaining support from Indian tribes was the key in telling the story of *BLACK CLOUD*. The film portrays the triumphant story of a young and spirited Native American boxer and will be released in select Oklahoma City theaters on Friday, October 1.

BLACK CLOUD is the visually moving story of a young, talented and strong-willed boxer who discovers his place within the boxing ring and world around him. Starring Eddie Spears, *BLACK CLOUD* marks the screenwriting and directorial debut of actor, Rick Schroder and marks the first feature film role for country music superstar, Tim McGraw. The film also stars Russell Means, Julia Jones, Peter Greene, Wayne Knight, Tim Sampson and boxer "Pooch" Marion Hall.

Schroder went before more than 20 tribal councils with determination in trying to spark their interest and gain their trust. After much perseverance, Schroder made a landmark step and solidified the support of multiple tribes for this project. He was invited to the Navajo Senate, normally not experienced by anyone except members of the Navajo tribe, where tribal leaders announced their desire to assist in production of the film.

BLACK CLOUD's journey to the screen began when Schroder was impressed by a story he read about a Navajo boxing coach and his son. The coach had conquered alcoholism and was now helping youngsters to overcome alcohol addiction, gang violence and other troubles through boxing. Schroder knew he needed to gain the trust of Indian tribal councils in order to see

the film through.

The character *BLACK CLOUD* carries the movie and Schroder was determined to find the perfect actor to play him.

"Eddie Spears is Black Cloud," states Schroder. "As soon as he walked in the door, I knew he was *BLACK CLOUD*. Eddie is a Lakota Sioux from South Dakota. He's tough and handsome. I don't know if there's ever been a character written or developed for an actor as perfect as this role is for Eddie Spears. It was written without knowing him."

Schroder chose Russell Means, star of *Last of the Mohicans*, to portray Bud, *BLACK CLOUD*'s coach and mentor. Means, who the Los Angeles Times called, "the most famous American Indian since Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse," brings to the role his indomitable sense of pride and leadership. Means believes *BLACK CLOUD* creates a peaceful and positive image celebrating the magic of his Indian heritage.

The film also features spectacular boxing sequences choreographed by legendary boxing choreographer Jimmy Gambina, whose work on such films as *The Champ*, *Rocky* and *Raging Bull* brought accolades from the sport as the most thrilling and realistic portrayal of the sweet science.

Most recently, the film won Best Picture from the 2004 Native American Film Festival. The film also won the Audience Award for Best Picture, along with honors for its ensemble cast and a special jury prize for cinematographer Steve Gainer from the 2004 Phoenix Film Festival.

BLACK CLOUD opens in select Oklahoma City theaters on Friday, October 1. For more information about the movie, visit the website at www.blackcloudthemovie.com or call (405) 848-7491.



Firm contacts Tribe in hopes of a joint production of an international hip-hop festival in 2007

ALBUQUERQUE — Gordon Bronitsky, Founder and president of Bronitsky and Associates, contacted the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in hopes of producing a future Indigenous hip-hop festival to be held in 2007.

"I've been contacted by a hip-hop festival in New Zealand about bringing international Indigenous hip-hop groups to their festival in 2006, with a view towards coproducing with me a separate international Indigenous hip-hop festival there in 2007," said Bronitsky. "I'd welcome any suggestions anyone might have about Indigenous hip-hop bands."

For the last ten years, Bronitsky has been operating Bronitsky and Associates. The firm, with offices in New Mexico and Germany, specializes in international cultural marketing of traditional and contemporary art, music, dance, fashion, film/video, photography, theater, and speakers and writers. Bronitsky and Associates produced a summer of American Indian programs in Austria, featuring American Indian talent from the U.S. and Canada, including a Lakota rock band.

Over the past few years, they have begun offering their services to other native people. In 2004, they are touring Yellow Bird Indian Dancers (Apache) to Taiwan, Fernando Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers to Mongolia, and Kross Kulchah, an Australian Aboriginal rock band, to Russia.

The firm is presently working with Navajos and Indigenous people in New Guinea in international cultural marketing of their talent, products and tourism. Bronitsky is also producing Native Nations, Native Voices, an international Native language writers festival in 2005. He is also under serious consideration to produce an international Indigenous gospel festival in Tahlequah.

Gordon Bronitsky, along with Bronitsky and Associates, extend their services in international cultural marketing to the Muscogee Creek communities. For more information, contact Gordon Bronitsky at 3715 La Hacienda Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110; (505) 256-0260; or E-mail at: g.bronitsky@att.net

Garrard Play Prize awarded to Creek drama professor

ADA — Bret Jones, a drama professor at East Central University, has recently received the Garrard Play Prize Award from the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee.

The play, *Kindred*, uses Creek characters and employs some use of the Creek language and hymnal singing. "I am doing what I can to help artistically express some of our heritage," said Jones, who received his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Oklahoma.

On October 17, the Garrard Best Play Prize ceremony will be held downtown at the Roxy Theatre, 220 West Okmulgee. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be available.

For reservations or more information about the museum contact: Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Agency Hill, Honor Heights Drive Muskogee, OK 74401; (918) 683-1701; or visit the website at www.fivetribes.org.



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Muscogee Nation News

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October 2004, 20 Pages

Chief Ellis accepts grant award from IHS for diabetes program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis recently accepted a competitive grant award from Dr. Charles Grim, Executive Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The grant offered by IHS uses funds set aside from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to reduce risks for heart disease in the diabetes population.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded the maximum amount of \$404,000 a year for the next five years. "I'd like to thank Dr. Grim for the opportunity to participate in the mission of this grant," said Chief Ellis. "I'd also like to thank and recognize the work of the Health System, in particular the Diabetes Program staff for writing the grant application."



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Scott Robison, Charles Coleman, Johnnie Brausell, Chief Ellis, Dr. Grim, Victoria Lee, and Patricia Buckley.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was one of seven tribes in Oklahoma to receive a grant. There were 136 applications and 66 grants awarded to tribes across the nation. According to Dr. Grim, Congress had requested that some of the funds from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians be set aside to identify interventions that would work in Indian Country to reduce the most frequent complication from diabetes and heart disease.

The major target of this grant will be people with diabetes who are willing to commit to five years of intensive management to reduce their risk of heart disease to normal levels. These risk factors include excess weight and high levels of cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar. A nurse case manager will work closely with 50 to 600 such individuals and their providers to identify successful interventions.

A less intensive component of the grant will provide community-based activities to increase awareness of the heart risks posed by diabetes and to increase physical activities and healthy eating practices. For more information, contact the Diabetes Prevention Program at (918) 756-3334.

Tribal representatives and citizens attend grand opening of National Museum of the American Indian



National Council Representatives Jesse Kelley, far left, and Bill Jones, far right, along with Chief Ellis and his wife, middle, lead the proud contingency of Creek tribal representatives and citizens during the Procession on the National Mall starting at the Smithsonian Castle during the grand opening ceremonies.

photo by Ted Isham

A large group of tribal representatives and citizens attended the Grand Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian located on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building. Part of the grand opening festivities was the Native Nations Procession. Thousands of people, many in Native dress and regalia, walked in unison to the stage of the Grand Opening ceremony. The procession provided an enduring symbol for the dawning of a new era—the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Inside the middle section of this month's issue is a four-page, full-color photo montage of the events of the grand opening in Washington, D.C.

Roads program receives funding to begin creating transit program

OKMULGEE — In 2003, Ben Chaney, Transportation Planner, began the quest of developing a Transit Authority for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. After initial logistical research of establishing such a system, a survey form was developed to evaluate the need of the Indian communities and individuals within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Nation. Surveys are currently being accepted and can be obtained at: Indian community centers; main tribal complex; roads department offices; and at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

The Transit Authority Program will be funded through the Indian Reservation Roads Program and will be the first for the regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Muskogee. All required documents have been prepared,

submitted and approved by the BIA and the funds have been transferred to the Nation.



Pictured above with Chief Ellis, from left to right, are members of the Transit Committee: Ben Chaney, Roberta Haney, David King, and Lucas Taylor.

photo by Jennifer Taryole

Plans for the Transit Authority will include the construction of a bus terminal, the purchase of several buses, and the establishment of regular routes from community centers to the main tribal complex and points beyond. One of the buses will be dedicated to the needs of dialysis patients.

"This is an essential, ongoing program that will insure safe, economical, and greater access to

areas of importance to the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," said Chief Ellis.

Presently, the Transit Committee is concentrating on issues regarding program awareness and presentation of the program to the Muscogee Nation National Council.

Expression of appreciation

Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to David Proctor of the Housing Authority and his crew, David Pascale and Silas Baker, for coming out to my mother's house and working after hours to repair her plumbing. They found the problem and had it fixed within an hour and a half. That's great work! Your deeply appreciated. Thank you.

Norma Cloud, Henryetta

Blues Society thanks Creek Nation Festival Committee

I wanted to take the time to say thank you for inviting the Blues Society of Tulsa to your Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Festival. At one of our monthly meetings, we were invited by Barney Ingram of Medicine Pony and Ruth Bible. I wish to thank you and them for the hospitality that we were shown and allowing us to go backstage to meet some of the band members between sets.

Barney did a great job doing the emcee duties and he kept everyone entertained between bands. The lineup was very good and we could not have asked for a better mix of national, as well as local talents. Having some Cherokee ancestry myself, it makes me very proud to see something of this magnitude and professionalism performed by some of our country's indigenous peoples.

Also, I had never witnessed a more peaceful group of people as I had that weekend. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves completely. Besides the concerts, I particularly enjoyed all the great food and watching the Lacrosse games. Next time I'll have to make time for some of the other events. Thank you again,

Eddie Bagwell, Vice President of Blues Society, Tulsa

Mayor thanks tribe for help during fire disaster

Editor:

After the recent unfortunate event of the fire that destroyed our warehouse that contained city property, we want to thank Creek Nation for helping us by bringing drinking water to pass out to the people of the town.

Approximately 80% of Native Americans make up our town. Our School has 146 students, with 110 being Native American.

So again, we would like to say thank you to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for all their help. The Tribe also helped us with grants for a new water system for the city.

Sincerely

Cleo Robinson, Mayor, Dustin

Family expresses gratitude for assistance

Editor:

We would like to thank all the people who came to help in our time of need. We lost our home to a fire on Sept. 4. We've had to start all over. We are so glad

their are good people whom are still willing to give. We would like to thank the Red Cross, Creek Nation Social Service, Muscogee Creek Nation Travel Plaza, Second Chief Berryhill, and the Creek Nation Housing Authority for all the donations.

Chris Hill and Family, Okmulgee

Family remembers loved one

Editor:

Kendall Thompson was born Oct. 1, 1969 and passed away on Oct. 1, 1997. He was born to Joyce and Tim Thompson of Yardeka. His paternal grandmother are Bessie Fife and the late George Thompson. As his parents, we'd like to share some of the special things we remember about him.

He always liked to joke and laugh. He loved to dance, not just stomp dance either! He enjoyed playing basketball, his favorite sport. Kendall would talk and visit with anyone. He was always ready to listen to whoever needed him to listen. You never seen him without a smile, at least not until it was time to go home.

There was one thing he wanted you to do and that was to believe in what you thought was right. He once said you always believe in yourself!

Friends, this was a big part of his life. By this I mean the man was everywhere. Talk about someone who never met a stranger, this was him. His honesty was another good point. If he told you something, then you know you could believe it. Very seldom did he ever tell a story without the truth.

He knew a lot of little kids too. But there was always that special little girl in his life, his niece Tamiko Dee. In his eyes this little girl could have walked on the moon. To Kendall, this child could do no wrong. In fact, neither his niece or nephew do no wrong in his eyes. You can bet his nephew will grow up just like Kendall. He loved and cared for these kids as if they were his own.

This is what I know will live on forever. Memories of someone who is so special to many people. That my friend is something nobody can or will ever take away from you. Anyone who knew Kendall should know how hard he tried at anything he did. He was always trying to forgive someone. If he could help you in anyway he would do it. He once said life was too short to sit around waiting on a new hit to come along.

As time has passed, we've come to learn there is always a past. His friendly smile is what drew you near, and his laughter was so soft and sweet. His words he spoke with no fear. He loved his mother, father and his brother Lance and sister Tina very much. This is a very special memory of Kendall to them. By family, we also mean Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground members, he loved each and everyone there. He would have told them love one another and keep on going.

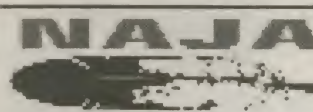
Joyce Thompson, Henryetta



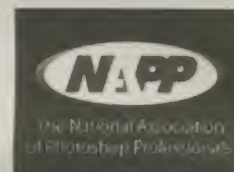
Thompson

Muscogee Nation News

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Native American Journalist Association



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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

LUCAS TAYLOR
Managing Editor

DENISE JACOBS
Editorial Assistant

GERALD WOFFORD
Photography/Writer

JENNIFER TARYOLE
Staff Writer

CARLA BROWN
Graphic Designer

JOSHUA SLANE
Reporter

WILMA MURPHY
Circulation

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PO BOX 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Change of Address:
(918) 732-7637
wmurphy@muscogeenation-
nsn.gov

Office of the Principal Chief...

Hello again my friends.

Saturday, Sept. 4, I attended Chief Smith's, of the Cherokee Nation, State of the Nation Address. He, as do most all Chiefs, feel that survival of our language is one of our top priorities. I am so pleased that our new tribal college at OSU-Okmulgee is offering Creek Language and we have many students working toward college credits.

On Sept. 9, I invited the Cherokee, Choctaw, Osage, Seminole and Chickasaw Chief's to our mound building to speak about State Question 712. This is a state question to allow a compact between that State of Oklahoma and tribes about gaming. The Compact is 76 pages long, so it is too long and complicated to recite, but the five mentioned Tribes above are totally supportive of 712.

On the other hand, on October 4th, the National Council



invited State Representative Forrest Claunch from Midwest City and Chief Kay Rhoades of the Sac and Fox Tribe to speak. These speakers are opposed to any kind of compact with the State. Representative Claunch is opposed to any kind of gaming, period! *I do not, and will not speak for the Tribal Council, but I personally support Question 712. I have completely read all 76 pages over and over. Better education for all 12,000 Creek students in public schools and a much better potential for our unpredictable future in gaming. I go on record with this opinion.*

September 21 was a great day for the American Indians to be recognized in our Nation's Capitol, Washington D.C. Myself, along with my wife, Gail, and about 225 tribal citizens walked slowly to the National Museum of American Indians. The procession, that included hundreds of tribes from throughout the U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico and South America, was inspiring and beautiful. I was so proud to represent the Creek people as your elected leader. The highlight of the entire museum is the movie about history and featuring the Creek Nation. Former Chief Beaver, Chebon Gouge, Rev. Harry Long, and the National Council will be seen by millions of people.

All aspects of our tribal government are progressing and programs for direct client services are top priority. The Tulsa

Casino, Coweta Clinic and Fountainhead Lodge are receiving top attention.

The children's clothing for school was very successful. Additional funds are being made available as I write this article.

Work on our new industrial park, north of Okmulgee, will be under way as you read this. This is very important because this will be home for the new Tribal Transit System. Ben Chaney is busy looking at new buses to purchase and the bus routes that will be established.

Another new area that is now active is the Tribal Farm. After setting idle and unmanaged for many years, it is now being cleared and re-fenced. Several hundred acres of alfalfa have been planted on the farm. This is good work and management by Second Chief Berryhill and the Trade and Commerce Authority.

The next 60 days are very important to the Creek Nation and to America. Everyone please register to vote and support your choice. Let's elect people who work for Indian Nations in Washington and also state questions that protect and serve Creek people. *Mvto.*

Quote of the month: *Every flower must grow through dirt.*

by R.D. Ellis

Second opinion

Nettv Herv (Good day). We have been having a lot of good days lately, but I think that we do need some rain. I understand that our Nation was well represented at the opening of the American Indian Museum in Washington, D. C. I had planned to go, but the work must go on here.

We plan to have a workshop on Self Governance. It seems that there is a great deal we need to know concerning this policy. Our new Veterans representative has been hard at work trying to reach as many veterans as he can to assist them in getting the proper benefits that they deserve. Ken Davis tells me that we may be soon going to Washington, D. C. to meet with some officials concerning the acquisition of a tank or a piece of artillery. We hope to enhance the memorial for our veterans.

Recently, some of our employees have been taking some Creek language and history classes. We hope that this will soon be available to all citizens.

I understand that there is a project underway to have a gathering of the Deer Clan. I'm most interested in seeing all the Deer Clan members because my father was of the Deer



Clan and my mother was of the Alligator Clan. I really don't know how many clans there were, but not all clans are animals. Some of the other clans are the Sweet Potato Clan and the Wind Clan.

The clan system was very important to our ancestors. Each time the elders would meet and really didn't know each other, they would ask each other what clan they were and what tribal town they belonged to. This would give them an idea of where each was from. Your clan is determined by what clan your mother belongs to and your tribal town is determined the same way.

Let's say my father is a deer, that makes all male deer's my father and a female deer would be my aunt. My mother was an alligator so all alligators that are male are my brothers and all females my sisters. When our elders were in a gathering, the subject of what clan each belonged to became a matter of fun or camaraderie.

For instance, if there were two alligators, they would begin teasing each other. But if one of their fathers were around, he would begin to brag on his son. And, the son of a clan would brag on his father. Sometimes the bragging was so real that some people believed what was said. There was a man that was bragging on my dad because dad was his father in clan. He asked this other person if he had been to the fair? He replied, "no." He said, "Well you really need to go because Togo has a prize bull that's been winning all kinds of ribbons and they're going to have a big auction on Saturday. Little did the man know but this wasn't true. He had went to the fair that Saturday and looked for my dad's bull. The next Sunday

all these men were together again and this man told these guys. "I looked all over the place where the bulls were and I never did see Togo's bull." Well I guess you can guess the rest. Everyone began laughing.

The clan system also served as a way of making the tribe a family because no matter where you went, you always had a father or a brother. One other reason was that if a child was seen doing something wrong, the person who saw them committing a wrong had the authority to discipline the child on the spot. Not only was he/she punished once, but when the parents were told, they received another discipline from their parents. How many of you have had to go and get the switch that you would be disciplined with?

By belonging to a tribal town, you had the right to take medicine, if you had done certain things or met the requirements. And, you could vote in that tribal town's election. These things make our people unique. I know that other Tribes have clans and towns also. Knowing our clan also gave us respect to the animals around us.

So when you meet someone who belongs to the clan of your father, you refer to him as cvrke (cvr-ke). The brother part gets a little tricky because there is always a little humor that goes along with it. Like, you may be about the same age as your brother, but because you want to seem younger, you say "svmcolat (sv-mv-co-lat) tos". He's my elder brother. And, a brother-in-law would be called "vn cukowakke" (the one that lays around the house).

We do, however, when speaking to a large gathering

please see **OPINION...**, page 18

Education

Beals attends school of medicine

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Among sixty-two new freshman medical students, members of the doctor of medicine class of 2008, who began their medical education on Aug. 2 at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Science, was Bryan Beals.



Beals

The M.D. class of 2008's first week of medical school was dedicated to orientation, which includes an introduction to the four-year medical education curriculum. Emphasis was placed on the student's new roles as health care professionals and the faculty's expectations.

The students' orientation week concluded with the Class of 2008 White Coat ceremony. During the ceremony, students were cloaked in their first white coats, the traditional garment of the physician, which were donated by the North Dakota Medical Association. They also recited the Oath of Hippocrates, an ancient vow to uphold basic professional principles.

Beals is the son of Bobby and Vicki Beals of Watonga and the grandson of James and Collene Jones of Dustin.

Benge graduates from Sequoyah high school

TAHLEQUAH — Kryste Benge of Muskogee is a 2004 graduate from Sequoyah High School. She maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her high school years and was on the Superintendent's honor roll.



Benge

Kryste is a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, founded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She was also awarded the Miss Sequoyah Scholarship and received another from the Indian University Scholar Society.

Along with her many scholarships, she was also recognized by several national honor societies such as: the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma as Student of Today; Who's Who Among American High School Students; Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society; and Outstanding Students of America.

Kryste was very active in school. She was president of the National Honor Society, senior class president, a member of the gifted and talented and the American Indian Science and Engineering, co-captain of the cheerleading squad, and member of the Sequoyah High School dance team. Benge also ran cross country and was an active member of the Honoring Our Peoples

Students perform at the National Museum of the American Indian grand opening

GLENPOOL — Twelve students from Glenpool performed at the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. on Sept. 20 through 25. Two of the students are featured in exhibits inside the museum.

The Tvstvnvke Singers marched in the Native Nations Procession to the opening ceremonies. The group sang creek hymns and gave a stomp dance exhibition at the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool. The group also performed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The students' sponsors, parents and volunteers have spent the last few months making traditional clothing for the students to wear at their performances. Students also have learned to make traditional Creek moccasins.

The 12 students became eligible to go on the trip from teacher recommendation forms given out at the end of the last school year.

Tvstvnvke is the Creek word for warrior, which is the mascot for Glenpool Public Schools.

"This gives the students an opportunity to see and meet people from other native tribes," said Kristi Collington, the director of Indian Education at Glenpool Public Schools. "It also allows them to travel outside of Oklahoma. Most of them have never been on a air-

plane before. This trip gives them a sense of pride to represent Creek Nation on a national level."

Glenpool public schools was awarded in March with the Creek Nation Johnson O'Malley Exemplary Program of the Year.

Felicia Factor and Toni Factor, are featured inside the museum. Felicia, a freshman at Seminole State College and the oldest member of the Tvstvnvke Singers, is included in a video exhibit. Toni, a ninth grader, is included in a painting. The sisters earned the titles of Miss Muscogee Creek Nation and Junior Miss Muscogee Nation, respectively last year.



The museum, the latest addition to the Smithsonian Institution, is located on the Mall in Washington D.C., just in front of the U.S. Capitol building. It was constructed because of the Smithsonian's efforts to make a place for a remembrance and celebration of the people who were here first.

The Glenpool students were joined by other schools from Oklahoma. The Grove Native American Performing Arts Troupe, made up of students from Grove Middle School and the Cherokee National Youth Choir of Tahlequah, also performed during the ceremonies. For more information about the Grove group, call Lona Hampton at (918) 786-2209.

Existence, where she served as their 2003-04 H.O.P.E. Princess.

She is the daughter of Sue Ann Harjo and Marcellus Benge. Her maternal grandparents are the late Marsey Harjo and Rosalie Harjo. Paternal grandmother is Frances Benge of Tahlequah. Maternal great-grandparents are the late Mitchell Harjo and Louisa Harjo.

She is attending Northeastern State University, where she is majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Her goal is to one day serve as the Attorney General for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Birthday

Tottress celebrates with Strawberry shortcake

TULSA — Jaebri Evonne Tottress celebrated her second birthday on Sept. 25 at Chuck E. Cheese with a Strawberry Shortcake theme.

She is the daughter of Kermitta Harris of Coweta and Johnathon Tottress of Henryetta.

Maternal grandparents are Sharon and the late Kermit Harris Sr. of Okmulgee.



Tottress

Paternal grandparents are John Tottress of Boynton and Ivalene Tottress of Henryetta. Jaebri is the great granddaughter of Ivaline Melton of Henryetta.

Society

Doyle's celebrate 54th wedding anniversary

OAKHURST — A 54th wedding anniversary celebration was held on Aug. 28 at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for Rev. George and Nora Doyle.

Rev. Doyle attended school in Bearden and Nora attended Eufaula Girls Bording School.

George enlisted in the United States Navy and Marines in 1943. He was honorably discharged in 1946. In 1948, George met Nora Wind in Tulsa. They were married on Aug. 29, 1950, residing in Tulsa.

George was ordained as a minister at High Spring Baptist Church in 1955. He has pastored High Springs Baptist, Indian Fellowship Baptist, Snake Creek Baptist Church and is currently



G. and N. Doyle

Sapulpa Health Center improves facilities to help serve Creek citizens

OKMULGEE — The Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic has completed its renovation and changed the look and size of the facility.

"We've more than doubled in size to over 15,000 square feet," said Florence July, Sapulpa Health Service Administrator. "The old green tile is gone and replaced with brightly colored walls and floors. The colors are a variation of the colors in the Muscogee seal."

The center now has two waiting areas, one for the general medical clinic and the other for the pharmacy, lab or x-ray services. These three areas, pharmacy, lab and x-ray have all increased in floor space. The center now has 14 patient exam rooms.

Other area health service programs have in-

creased as well. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program have their own waiting area and office space.

The Diabetes program has their own area, including a large conference room equipped with cooking stove and refrigerator, which are used during EPIC or general diabetes classes. The Dental program has increased in size by adding addi-

tional dental chairs for patients.

"Needless to say, we are very proud and honored to serve at the new Sapulpa Clinic," said July.

Citizens are encouraged to come by and see the new center. To schedule an appointment, please contact the Sapulpa Health Center at (918) 224-9310 or visit them at 1125 East Cleveland Street in Sapulpa.



Diabetes Prevention Program receives excellence award

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Prevention Program staff was recently awarded the IHS Director's Award for Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for their efforts in planning and implementing diabetes prevention youth camps. The award was presented at the Indian Health Summit in Washington D.C.

Mvskokvlke PRIDE (Preventing and Reducing Indian Diabetes Everyday) Diabetes Youth Prevention day camps for Youth were initiated during the summer of 2004. These camps provided five hours of diabetes prevention topics and 13 hours of physical activity to youth ages 10 to 15. The camps were held in the four clinic communities within the Creek Nation boundary area. These communities were Eufaula, Okemah, Okmulgee and Sapulpa. A total of 130 youth participated in the four different day camps.

The Diabetes Program developed a Diabetes Prevention curriculum made up of 5 parts: Part 1, What is Diabetes and Pre Diabetes; Part 2, Prevent Diabetes through Good Nutrition; Part 3, Learning Balance Today – Progression of Diabetes; Part 4, My Decision to be Healthy; and Part 5, Choose to be Active and Prevent Diabetes.

The importance of increasing physical activity was integrated into the camp curriculum through out each day during cooperative and fitness games, as well as on field trips that included bowling, hiking, swimming and skating. The importance of healthy eating was emphasized also by providing

healthy lunches and snacks each day. The third day, campers were provided opportunities to select healthy lunch choices from the water park lunch facilities. Incentives included Nike water bottles on the first day, t-shirts with camp logo on the second day and a trip to "Big Splash" water park on the last day.

A wide and varied range of organizations and businesses volunteered their services for resources in each community.

These included schools and churches, bowling alleys, roller rinks, swimming pools and parks. By developing partnerships with these agencies, many of the facilities were free of charge and available for future camp use. Transportation resources were made available from various tribal and community agencies to carry campers to different sites within the community. A van and bus from the tribal Childcare was used for two camps and school buses from a public school and the Eufaula Boarding School was used for the other two camps.

In addition to the Diabetes Program staff at each site, other staff members were recruited from other tribal organizations to oversee and encourage camper safety and participation. Two tribal agencies provided camp counselors and one camp was conducted in cooperation with the Johnson O'Malley program. The Creek Nation Community Health Representatives and Social Services provided employees for each camp as well.



Okemah campers participate in a martial arts presentation by tribal EMS employee Henry Harper.

photo by Scott Robison

Caregiver Program offers grandparents opportunity to hire respite worker

OKMULGEE — The Native American Caregiver Support Program is offering grandparents or senior citizens an opportunity to hire a respite (relief) worker to help with caregiving duties of dependents under the age eighteen.

The program offers an 80 hour respite service and you have twelve weeks to use it. The program also allows individuals the option of who they want to hire and the Caregiver Program will pay them.

How does having someone help with baby-sitting or housework sound while you go out to the spa? Or maybe you would rather go play bingo or to a gospel singing, whatever activity you enjoy, the Respite Service will help you to do it.

Eligibility for Respite Service include the following: Native Americans over age 55; must live within the Creek Nation service area; and must be the primary care provider of a child under eighteen years of age in your home.

For the application or for more information you may contact the DHA Creek Nation Caregiver Program at 1-800-353-3439 or 918-758-2727 extension 260 and ask for Loretta Wind Jumper, Program Coordinator.



Doctor's Note

From the office of Dr. Lawrence Vark, C.M.O.

Time for Flu vaccine

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus which infects many parts of the body, including the lungs. Someone who has the flu spreads the virus by sneezing, coughing, or even talking. Flu may be transmitted by direct hand contact.

The following are some of the people for whom influenza vaccine is recommended in the United States: people 50 and older; anyone 6 months and older who has medical problems such as heart or lung disease (including asthma), diabetes, kidney disease or a weak immune system; women who will be 14 or more weeks pregnant between December and March, which is flu season; health-care workers; caregivers who work with or live with people with the problems listed above; and anyone who wants to avoid the risk of spreading the flu and its possible complications to a loved one or friend. Flu vaccine protects not only you, but also the people you care about.

Housing Authority offers two assistance programs

OKMULGEE—The Mortgage Assistance Program helps Native American people become first time homeowners.

With many Native American families never becoming homeowners due to the high cost of obtaining a mortgage loan, the Mortgage Assistance Program was designed to help eligible clients with the financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan. In order to meet out of pocket expenses, such as down payment and closing fees, the Mortgage Assistance Program provides grant assistance for families who meet program requirements.

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA): have proof of tribal affiliation; be a first time home buyer (defined as not having a mortgage in the prior three years of an application date with the Mortgage Assistance Program; purchase and reside permanently in that home, which must be within the jurisdictional boundaries as defined by program policies; meet income guidelines; be 18 years or older; provide all requested information; sign all required forms; and be able and willing to meet all credit check and financial obligations.

If a client meets all program requirements, they will be pre-approved and referred to an outside lender who will then determine if the client qualifies for a mortgage loan. The applicant must be aware that MAP pre-approval does not guarantee a mortgage loan from an outside lender.

For more information, contact Barbara Lane at 752-3236.

The Housing Division Emergency Rental Assistance program offers low income Indian families residing in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdictional service area, with preference given to Creek citizens.

Grants may be given for shelter costs, utility costs (electric, heating fuel, and water) or deposits for same. Duplication of services are not allowable. The assistance will be based on housing needs and/or preference for replacement housing according to HUD low income guidelines.

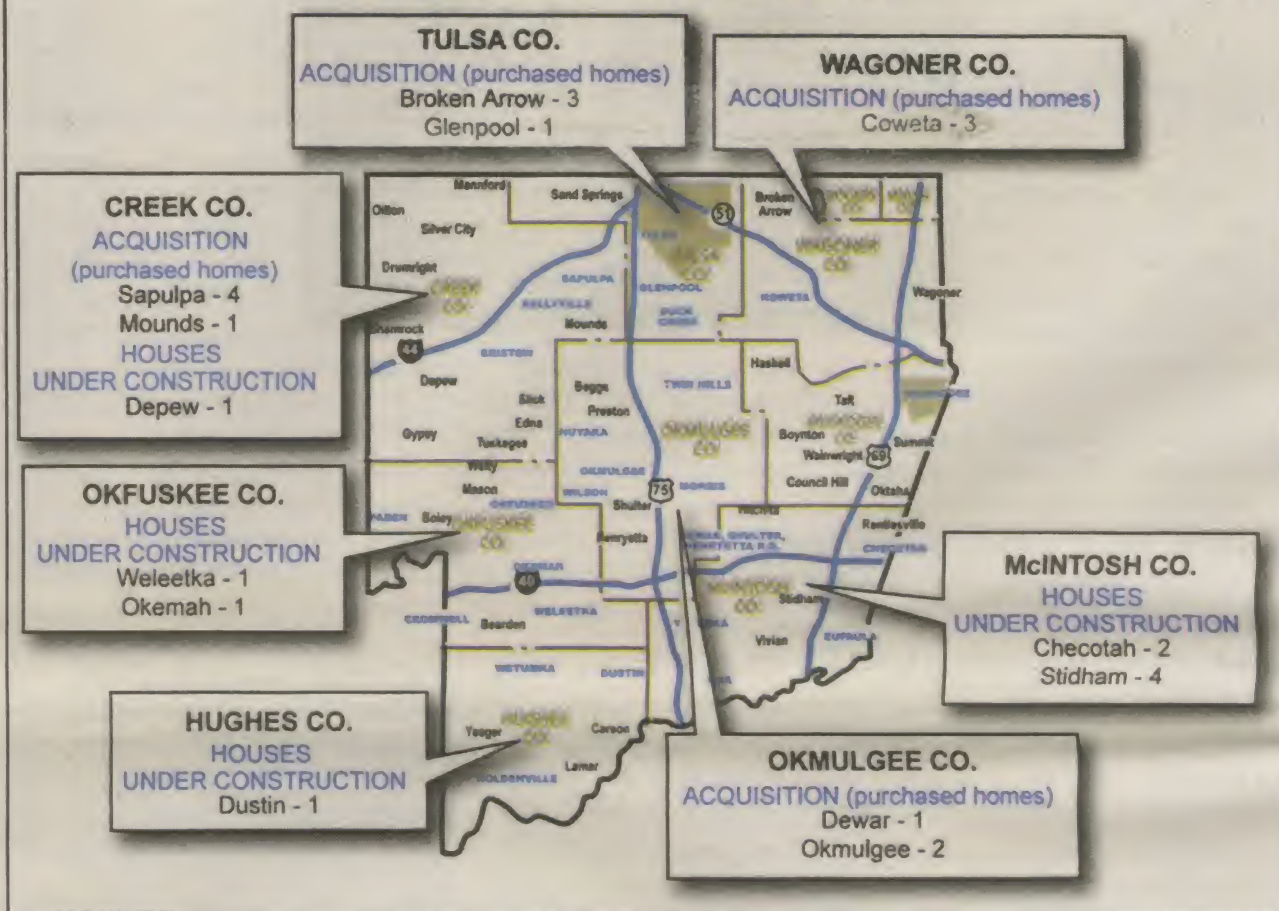
To apply for the program clients must complete an Emergency Rental Application and have all required documents, which will be verified by phone.

The applicant must provide the following documents and meet all program guidelines: applicant, shall be head of household or significant other, shall provide a copy of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or tribal membership card of a federally recognized Indian tribe; applicant must document a break in income or extenuating circumstances (i.e. loss of wages due to illness, death or unemployment); and proof of income documents, for head of household and for each household member 18 years old or older. Certified letter from employer and/or State Agencies, current payroll stubs and/or letter of application for disability with Doctor's recommendation, statement from Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, DHS, General Assistance, Social Security Benefits, Veterans Administration, etc.

For more information contact the Rental Assistance program at (918) 756-8504 or 1 (800) 259-5050. You may also apply in person at the Housing Division, 2951 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee.

DIVISION OF HOUSING ACQUISITION HOMES PURCHASED HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

During September and October 2004



Selling or buying a home

Century 21

Cynthia "Janie" Fox
918-378-2679
11717 South Memorial Drive
Bixby, OK 74008
jfox@tulsarealtors.com

Free college planning seminar

TULSA — The University of Tulsa and the Simon Estes Educational Foundation are working together to put on a free seminar, offered to all area high school students and parents for success in planning their higher educational futures.

Valuable information, including topics such as taking the ACT/SAT tests, developing an action plan for success, finding the right college, and paying for college will be provided.

The seminar will be held on October 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at the University of Tulsa's Kendall Hall Theatre. For more information please contact The Simon Estes Educational Foundation, Inc. at (918) 583-0500 or hollie@seef.org.

Higher Education accepting requests for applications

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department is currently accepting written requests for applications for the Spring and Summer 2005 terms.

Prospective students must meet the following criteria: be planning to attend a nationally accredited two year Jr. Community College or a four year college/university; must possess a CDIB and Creek tribal membership cards; apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA); and return completed applications before the closing date of December 15.

Current high school students may send written requests for application in January 2005. Applications for the summer 2005, fall 2005, and spring 2006 terms will be mailed out in February, 2005.

Send requests to: Creek Nation Higher Education Department, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or e-mail to cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov. For further information, contact the Higher Education Department at (918) 732-7688.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Senior Services Program, in collaboration with Seminole tribal members, will be hosting a *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* conference at the Creek Nation Complex. Over 20 tribes have been contacted about the conference.

Sandy Ingraham, who holds a Juris Doctorate in Law and a Master's in Social Welfare, will be presenting information about navigating the legal system, guardianship, custody, adoption and other legalities concerning our grandchildren. A representative of Creek Nation legal department will also be participating.

All senior citizens and employees who welcome to participate. For more information, contact Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.

Iraq and Afghanistan care packages

OKMULGEE — Care packages will be sent to Muscogee citizens on active duty status deployed with military units stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office requests that families of military personnel on duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, contact Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739, fax, (918) 732-7951, or e-mail to kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov. Please provide the name,

rank, unit, and military mailing address of your military personnel family member.

The care packages will consist of sealed, non-perishable food products and reading literature. There will be no costs to families or the military personnel for the care packages.

Emergency Hardship Program revised

OKMULGEE — Over the past several months, tribal administration and Social Services have been revising the guidelines for the Emergency Hardship Program to better serve the tribal citizens.

Some of the changes included increasing the maximum grant amount and eliminating the service area for the program so all tribal members can apply, regardless of where they reside. The legislation for these changes was sponsored by Representative Ron Cleghorn. During September's National Council meeting, a unanimous vote by the National Council allowed these changes to become law.

For more information about the Emergency Hardship Program, contact Social Services at (918) 732-7620 or 1(800) 482-1979, ext. 7620.

Gates Millennium Scholars applications

FAIRFAX, VA. — The Gates Millennium Scholars is now accepting applications. To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be American Indian, Alaskan Native (Federally or State Recognized), African American, Asian, Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic American. They also have to be entering a nationally accredited college or university as a full time freshmen in the fall of 2005, have maintained a 3.3 cumulative GPA or earned a GED, meet the federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria, and demonstrate leadership abilities through participating in community service, extracurricular activities or other activities.

The 2005-2006 Gates Millennium Scholarship packet is available on-line at www.gmsp.org or www.aigc.com. The deadline to apply is January 14, 2005.

Veterans recognition ceremony

OKMULGEE — Creek military veterans, Jackson Barnett, Thomas Yahola, Ken Davis, and Robert Jones have developed a special ceremony honoring the veterans. The ceremony plans to recognize each veteran individually.

Being that Veterans Day will be on Nov. 11 and many veterans may have plans to attend other functions, the ceremony is planned for Nov. 10 at the Creek Nation Mound Building beginning at 11 a.m. Veterans are requested to be there by 9:30 a.m. for rehearsal of the days activities. Veterans interested in the ceremony are asked to submit their name, branch of service, rank and dates of service by October 31.

For more information or to register, contact Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739 or Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.

Muscogee Creek Nation donates \$1,000 to the Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation donated \$1,000 to the Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter Inc. "We recognized a great need for a homeless shelter," said

Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. "The Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter is a place for them to go. After all, we're part of the Community as well."

The Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter has been in operation for nine years. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During this past year, Native Americans stayed in the shelter a total of 399 days, totalling 39% of the total days stayed. Creeks stayed a total of 145 days, or 15% of the total days stayed. In addition, the shelter has prevented homelessness in 45 Native Americans, 40 of whom were Creek citizens. Homeless prevention monies are used to prevent evictions and utility cutoffs.

Transients are allowed to stay for up to 4 days. Okmulgee county residents, who enter the shelter, may stay up to 30 days, depending on the circumstances and the progress they are willing to make on their own behalf. Residents receive a safe clean place to stay, three meals a day, and assistance with overcoming their individual barriers to self-sufficiency. Residents are given clean serviceable clothing, personal hygiene items, and access to showers and laundry facilities at the shelter.

The shelter also provides transportation for job search to clients. Assistance with emergency medical treatment, prescription medication, vision and dental needs is also available through United Way funding. Those interested are able to receive assistance with GED training and testing, obtaining identification, making application for HUD Section 8 rental assistance and information on renter / landlord rights.

Creek Festival Hymnal singing DVD's available

OKMULGEE — During the recent Creek Nation Festival, Methodist and Baptists churches of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a gospel singing inviting denominational churches and individual groups to share songs in the Creek language.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department have produced a DVD set from the recorded singings of the Methodist and Baptist Hymnal singing held at the Okmulgee Community Center on Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 20. Prices for each nightly singing is \$20, and \$30 for both nights.

DVD's can be ordered by contacting the Communications Department at (918) 732-7635.

Reunions

Tiger Family Reunion

HENRYETTA — All descendants of Miller Tiger, Jeddie Tiger, Wilson Tiger, Jefferson Tiger, Hettie Tiger, Toney Tiger, or Jeanetta Tiger Burgess are invited to the 5th annual Tiger Family Reunion on Oct. 23, beginning at noon. The reunion is being held at the Henryetta Civic Center located at 115 S. 4th.

Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish and an item to be used as a door prize. Also, family members are encouraged to bring any family photographs or other articles of family interest from the past to share.

For more information, contact: Elise Lowery at (918) 652-9719; Yahola Tiger Jr. at (918) 456-1217; Judy Pickering at (918) 689-4180; or Jon Tiger at (918) 689-3654.

October District Court filings

Marriage License:

- Bobby Maratin and Cathrine Weatherford

Protective Orders:

- PEREZ: Rickey v. PEREZ: Tammy
- JACK: Paulinie v. LAWSON: Rickey
- WOOD: Georgia v. WOOD: Anthony
- PEREZ: Rickey v. PERTZ: Tammy
- SEXTON: Ceilla v. HOGGAT BLACKBOURN: Tina

Criminal - Felony:

- MCN v. CHILD: Shawn

Poss. of Illegal Drugs

Criminal - Misdemeanor

None

Traffic:

- MCN v. DODD: Aaron Lance

Poss. of Alcohol

- MCN v. STIGER: Johnathan

Poss. Of Alcohol

Family Domestic:

None

Divorce:

- WOOD: Georgia v. WOOD: Anthony
- TIGER: Lucille Ann v. KELLEY: Matthew
- HEDGE: Debbie v. HEDGEL William
- LONG: Susan v. LONG: Donald
- BEAR: Rhonda v. TIGER: Ted

Civil/ Small Claims:

- WOODFORT: WILLIAM v. MCN Citizenship Appeal of Denial of Citizenship
- MONTGOMERY: Consuelo v. ADDISON: Kasey

Petition to Establish Paternity

- Credit Bureau Services v. TIGER: Earnest Foreign Judgment

- Royal Finance v. GOODVOICE: Stephanie Small Claims

- Royal Finance v. FACTOR: David Small Claims

- BRADY: Angelique v. JUDD: Bo Allen Emergency Temporary Custody

- Creek Nation Indian Village Apt. v. WAGNER: Jeremiah

Foreign Judgment

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CRM 2 004-14

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff vs.
Bilby: Donald, Defendant

JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE ON PLEA OF GUILTY

Now on this 28th day of June, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, Donald Bilby, present in

open court with his Attorney Rod Wiener, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Information filed in this cause with a criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crimes of; **COUNT ONE: PUBLIC INTOXICATION (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707) and COUNT TWO: BATTERY (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-2003)** as charged in said Information.

The Court prior to accepting said plea informed the defendant of his Constitutional rights, including his right to legal counsel and trial by jury; his right to be confronted by his accusers and his right to the privilege against compulsory self-incrimination; and in response to questioning by the Court, the defendant said that he understood his Constitutional rights and he waived each of them, and persisted in his plea of guilty. The Court further informed the defendant of the minimum and maximum penalty provided by law for the aforesaid offense, and the effect of such plea; and after being further interrogated by the Court the defendant stated that he is guilty of said crime and that his plea of guilty is voluntary and is made by him without inducement or coercion.

The Court thereupon accepted the defendant's plea of guilty to the aforesaid crimes; and the defendant having been asked by the Court whether he had any legal cause to show why judgment and sentence should not now be pronounced against him, and he stating no such sufficient cause, and none appearing to the Court;

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the defendant Donald Bilby, is **guilty** of the crimes of Count one and Count Two in said information.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE COURT that the defendant Donald Bilby be committed to the Custody of the Chief of the Lighthorse Police for a term of six (6) months Suspended Sentence, all but ten (10) days Suspended to be severed in Okmulgee County jail. Defendant is given ten (10) days Credit for Time served. Said remaining jail time to be suspended provided that Defendant timely pay all fines, costs and other fees associated herewith and comply with the Rules and Conditions of Probation signed by the Defendant and the Court, filed in this case and incorporated herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant Donald Bilby pay fines and costs per the attached Exhibit A.

The Court further advised the defendant of his right to appeal to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, and of the necessary steps to be taken by him to perfect such appeal.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge
/s/ Tobie King, Deputy Court Clerk/Notary Public
/s/ Rod Wiener, Attorney for Defendant
/s/ Shannon Prescott, Assistant Prosecutor

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

=Case No. CRM 2004-13

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee

District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff vs. RUSSELL: Porter, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 10th day of June, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **Porter Russell**, appears pro se and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Public Intoxication, (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707)** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Ninety (90) days**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant's plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

State Questions for Election November 2

STATE QUESTION NO. 705

This measure creates the Oklahoma Education Lottery Act. It creates the Oklahoma Lottery commission. The Commission will govern by a board of trustees. The Commission will operate a state lottery. The board will write rules regarding the conduct of lottery games. At least 45% of the revenue from ticket sales will be returned as prizes. The net proceeds of the lottery will be used for education purposes. Net proceeds will equal at least 35% of ticket proceeds except for the first two years. The act contains provisions relating to the selection and regulation of retailers. This act would lose the force and effect of law under certain conditions. The act contains many other provisions relating to the conduct of a state lottery.

STATE QUESTION NO. 706

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new section 41 to Article 10. This measure would create the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust Fund. The trust fund shall consist of monies from the Oklahoma Education for which the trust funds used to support education. The State Board of Equalization will determine if any of the monies in the trust fund are being used to replace state funding of education. If such a finding is made, the Legislature may not make any appropriations until the amount of replaced funding

please see **QUESTIONS...**, page 13

House Resource Committee approves Indian Health Care legislation

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2003, a bill by Representative Don Young of Alaska, was unanimously passed by the House Resources Committee Wednesday. The legislation, H.R. 2440, is expected to aid in improving the health of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

"H.R. 2440 marks the first substantive step forward in Indian health care in over a decade," said Resource Committee Chairman Richard Pombo in a press release. "Since the last reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, more than half of the tribes in the United States have exercised their rights under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to assume responsibility to carry out health programs on their own behalf. Congress should encourage this progress and flexibility by allowing tribes continued input through their powers of self-governance so that they can tend to the needs and priorities of their tribal members."

"We have a good bill before us," said Representative Young, "and it is time for Congress to reauthorize The Indian Health Care Improvement Act for the health care delivery of our Native people."

Representative George Nethercutt of Washington said, "I'm encouraged to see that this legislation includes the creation of an Assistant Secretary position at the IHS which will give Native Americans a stronger voice in Washington, D.C."

Nethercutt, along with Senator John McCain, sponsored the original concept. "Health care is a pressing problem in Native American Communities. This change will help IHS advocate for more resources to fight diseases like diabetes that are disproportionately affecting Native Americans."

Diabetes is not the only disease that native Americans face in disproportionate numbers, but it is the most talked about. There are also disparities in other chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer, the two leading causes of death among Native Americans and Alaska Natives, according to a report by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and syphilis are also overrepresented in Native communities.

Infant mortality is 1.7 times higher among Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Funding for Indian health care has taken some hard hits in the last few years, and a number of tribes have taken it upon themselves to improve care for their citizens, including creating diabetes clinics and educating tribal members about good health.

Dollar Volume of Indian mortgages rises sharply

The real estate boom has made itself a factor in Indian country. For while the federal government said the number of mortgages made to American Indians declined a little last year, the dollar value of those mortgages zoomed by 40 percent.

A total of 3,510 financial institutions made mortgages to Indians or Alaska Natives last year, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data show. The 2003 total of \$14 billion was 40 percent above the \$9.7 billion registered in 2002 by 3,154 lenders. That's fairly proportional to the nationwide increase in mortgage lending from \$2.7 trillion in 2002 to \$3.9 trillion in 2003, caused by booming real estate prices and ample refinancing.

An earlier HMDA "snapshot" released by the government showed a 4.8 percent decline in the number of mortgages made to Natives year to year. But that was based only on a partial count of home purchase mortgages, leaving out the far-larger refinancing sector.

The top 10 lenders to Indians last year did a volume of \$6.7 billion, far outstripping the \$4.5 billion the top 10 did in 2002. The top 100 was also stronger in 2003 doing \$11.1 billion in Native lending compared to \$7.8 billion in 2002.

That means average lending to Natives at the biggest lenders has gone up, with the top 100 averaging more than \$100 million in mortgages to Indians.

Another milestone was the first-ever \$2 billion Native mortgage year by a single institution Countrywide Home Loans, Calabasas, Calif. led all institutions with \$2.7 billion in lending to Natives. With it's sublime unit, Full Spectrum Lending, factored in, Countrywide did 2.8 billion in Native volume last year, almost doubling 2002's \$1.5 billion. (These and all volumes refer to mortgages made both on- and off- reservation.)

Second again in 2003 was Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco. Wells has a decentralized reporting structure, and more than 30 of it's banks report HMDA numbers, as well as its mortgage company and finance unit, which both finished in the top ten in lending to Natives.

Put together, Wells' top two units did more than \$1.25 billion in Native lending last year. Adding in the

state units doing business in Indian country would make its results even higher than that.

Taking the bronze medal was Washington Mutual Bank of Seattle. With two reporting Washington Mutual units and a third subprime unit, Long Beach Mortgage, Washington Mutual made more than \$550 million in Native lending last year, barely edging out Wachovia Bank of Winston-Salem, N.C. which has \$541 million.

In fifth was Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp., Edison, N.J. at \$390 million. It barely edged its rival, Bank of America, Charlotte, N.C., which had \$380 million in loans to Indians and Alaska Natives.

Seventh was a newcomer to the top-10 list, Lehman Brothers Bank, New York, at \$328 million. Eighth was ABN Amro Mortgage of Troy, Mich., at \$319 million.

The ninth rank belongs to Citicorp, N.Y., which like Wells, reports its units individually. Totalling more than 10 Citi units gives it more than \$300 million in Native volume, besting number 10, Aegis Funding Corp. of Houston, another newcomer at \$230 million.

A total of 19 institutions made at least \$100 million in mortgages to Indians last year. Besides the 11 mentioned above they are National City Mortgage, Cleveland; GMAC Mortgage Corp., Horsham, Pa; New Century Mortgage Corp., Irvine, Calif.; Flagstar Bank, Flint, Mich.; Mac-Clair Mortgage, World Savings Bank Oakland and, Calif.; and First Horizon Home Loan, Orange, Calif. The top 20 is a mix of commercial banks, subprime mortgage companies, and a couple of finance companies.

Looking at the bottom of the list, one of three lenders tied for least volume to Indians ironically has an Indian country name. That's Sioux land tied for bottom spot on the 3,510 lender list with Kentucky Bank, Paris, Ken. and Sunrise Family Credit Union, Bay City, Mich.

Those 3,510 were less than half of a total of more than 8,000 that reported HMDA numbers to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. That means a majority of lenders in the country made no mortgages to Indians at all last year.

Funding available to help save endangered languages

The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities have partnered to offer grants for projects designed to help save endangered languages. This multi-year funding partnership will support projects to develop and advance knowledge concerning endangered human languages.

Funding will support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases. Funding will be available in the form of one-to-three- year project grants as well as fellowships for up to twelve months.

At least half the available funding will be awarded to projects involving fieldwork. Academic institutions and nonprofit and nonacademic organizations located in the United States are eligible to apply for funding. U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who have been living in the U.S. or its jurisdictions for at least three years are eligible to apply for fellowships. An estimated 18-22 grants will be made, including 12 fellowships. The program is expected to provide \$2 million annually in funding.

Deadline: November 1, 2004 For more information contact: Amy M. Weaver, Development Officer, Oklahoma Centennial Commission (405) 228-2003.

'Tis the season

To be scared, regardless of whether you call it Halloween, All Saint's Eve, or Samhain, October 31 is a season that's easy to get caught up in. A MNN reader suggested we publish a Creek scary story. A special thanks to Jon Tiger for this story.

NOKOS-OMV: Like a Bear

This is a true story. My grandfather B.B. Scott would tell us stories about his encounters with the spooky. Once he encountered Nokos omv "like a bear." He was working late nights in Eufaula. He didn't have a car so he walked home, three miles west of town. One night the ground was foggy. He saw something in the fog. He concluded it was Nokos omv. It had a rounded shape like an ant eater with its head being close to the ground. Being Quarsarte, he believed one should never cross the path of this super natural being. After a short while he went on home.

The next day he went and got a gun in town in case he encountered anything else. Well, he locked up shop that night and walked home. He got to the place of the encounter the night before. Sure enough there was Nokos omv again. This time he loaded his pistol and aimed at the creature, but the gun jammed. He got so angry he just tossed the gun away. The creature went on his journey and my grandfather walked on home. He said "Nokos omv" probably had something to do with the gun jamming since it was threatened. This happened north of Turner Mountain just behind the Eufaula Dormitory in the 1940's.

Teaching Creek inspires Eufaula resident

published by the Muskogee Daily Phoenix on Sept. 6

EUFULA — Most everyone agrees that one of the most important necessities to having a culture is having a language. However, not everyone is willing to put the time and effort into learning their language. Such is not true of Millie Jean Colbert, who not only speaks Creek fluently, but also teaches the language to people of all ages from a headstart level up to one of the largest universities in the state.

She began teaching the language in 1979 in a pre-school class in Eufaula. Later, when she attended Bacone College, one of the instructors at the school asked her to teach the language at the college. She had two students, one of whom was Navajo.

"I asked him if he knew the Navajo language," said Colbert. "He said nah, I just want to learn someone else's language."

Since then, Colbert has taught the Creek language in headstart classes across eastern Oklahoma and even at the University of Oklahoma.

Colbert said American Indians taking a native language in college can both earn foreign language credit and recapture part of their heritage that may, without help from their generation, be lost.

"If they can learn their language, it may be a lot easier for them," she said. "A lot of the languages are not there for many of the tribes anymore, so we're trying to keep ours alive. There's a lot of tribes that their language is gone. A lot of their elders were never approached to teach the language. That's the main thing we want to do is preserve the language. We want to

keep it current, keep it alive, to where it's spoken generation after generation."

Phyllis Fife, director of the Center for Tribal Studies at Northeast State University in Tahlequah, said Colbert's work is very important to preserving the language.

"There are many languages that are becoming extinct on an annual basis," Fife said. "It's important to preserve the languages. It's important not just for humanity, but for human knowledge. In learning about the languages we have a deeper understanding of cultures."

Fife said teaching the languages at colleges is a good way to revitalize them. "It's not important just for diversity," she said. "But for Indian people themselves to have another opportunity to learn their own language."

Colbert credits her grandmother with helping her learn the language when she was very young. She said she would sit in a corner and listen to her family speak to each other in Creek when her uncles and other family would come over. "I understood the stories they would tell, the lies they would tell," she joked.

The method by which she teaches involves first teaching the phonetic spelling, then the Creek spelling of the word.

"The way I teach I want to get into vowels and consonants, one and two syllable words," she said. "Then combine words to form sentences, then on to animals, foods, etc."

Little Brother of War; the Creek's version of mortal combat

by Joshua Slane

Anxiety, exhilaration, fear, power, pain, triumph, and finally, exaltation. The Little Brother of War brings all of these things to its participants. But what is Little Brother of War?

If you said marriage, I'm going to remind you I said little brother, not big brother. Instead the correct answer is Stick Ball. Stick ball is a sport traditionally played before or after a stomp dance to help settle disputes or as the grounds prepare to close for the winter.

Stick ball, shockingly enough, is played with two sticks per player and a ball. The sticks, traditionally hand carved hickory, are approximately 3 and a half feet long with a cup shape on one end that's made for holding the ball. The ball, made of animal skin, is tough and slightly smaller than a tennis ball.

After this point, the game varies depending on if the game is a social game between men and women or is played between the grounds themselves.

If played with 2 grounds opposing each other, one ground is designated as the Rising Sun, or East, while the other is designated as the Setting Sun, or West. The ball field resembles a football field with two posts at either end. The object is to get the ball through the posts either by carrying it

or by throwing it.

As in most sports, this is far harder than it sounds. First, players are not allowed to touch the ball with their hands, making even the simple act of picking it up off the ground difficult. Secondly, tackling, and wrestling are permitted, even encouraged. Third, is the man to man style of defense. At this point, some injuries may occur. To keep things fair, if a person is injured, the person guarding him leaves the game as well.

Fans of stick ball love to get involved in the matches, not with sticks of their own, but by calling out for the team they support. It's customary to call for a team but not for individual players strengthening the team bond.

After the game, the winners gather around their goal posts and sing their victory song, hitting their sticks together.

The social game is slightly different and less dangerous,



in some aspects at least. The women are allowed to use their hands, while the men are still stuck using their sticks. This provides the women a sizable advantage in ball control, maneuverability, and the ability to hide the ball. Also, the women may tackle the men without fear of reprisal.

The final difference is in scoring. To score, players must hit what is traditionally a skull or a painted fish atop a tall pole.

This game, while being enjoyable in and of itself, helped keep the people prepared and ready for warfare. It's violent nature and hard competition forced athletes to remain in good shape. By using the sticks taught skill, while being denied use of their hands, taught players to use their whole body as a weapon. Being hit and tackled helped one learn to dodge and to suck it up when a dodge failed. Throwing the ball to hit the target helped teach accuracy and precision over brute force. Playing as a team taught team work, even in the face of adversity.

I'm sure many people today would say that stick ball is too violent a sport and should be toned down. It is quite possible that one of your ancestors owed his life to the skills gained during this game. It's certainly something to think about.

Church Events

Church Revival

OKMULGEE — Belvin Baptist Church will be having a revival October 17 thru 20 starting at 7 p.m. The Evangelist is Charlie Denney.

The church is located at 310 N. Mission.

Green Country Area Crusade

TULSA — The Green Country Area Crusade will be held October 18 thru 22 at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

The crusade will be held at Living Hope Baptist Church at 24 S. Rosedale.

They will have a teaching nursery-preschool, counseling, children's service, Green Country Indian Church Choir and Youth night.

Evangelist will be Richard Pickup and music leader will be Van Samuels.

For more information you may call 918-592-0970 and it is sponsored by the Green Country Southern Baptist American Indian Churches.

Mini Revival

BIXBY — Snake Creek Indian Baptist Church will be having a mini revival Oct. 22 thru 24.

The revival begins at 7 p.m. nightly.

The evangelist will be Reverend Ed Ethridge of Direct North Texas Baptist Association.

Halloween Party

OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church is having a Halloween Party Oct. 24 with activities starting at 3 p.m.

Activities include: Costume contests; cake walk; musical chairs; and box supper auction.

The church is located two miles south on Highway 27, four mile east and then two miles south.

3rd Annual Lock-In

SEMINOLE — New Creation's 3rd Annual Lock-In will be held October 29 from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. at Mekusukey Mission Gym.

There will be free fun, games, sports, Christian Band Music and food. The lock-in is youth oriented but everyone welcome with adult supervision and security patrolling the area.

For more information contact Helen or Phillip Harrison at 405-382-6905 and sponsored by the New Creation's Youth/Young Adult Fellowship c/o Little River Full Gospel Mission Church.

2nd Annual Lock-In

HENRYETTA — Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church will be having their Second Annual Lock-In on October 29 from 7:30 p.m. until 7 a.m.

There will be fun games, skits, Bible jeopardy, Christian Music, food, and a movie shown

National Conference on Native American Spirituality to be held

MUSKOGEE — The National Conference on Native American Spirituality will be held at Bacone College November 11th thru 13th.

The conference will have a variety of workshops that include: Traditional Medicine; Native Art; Indian Music and Dance; Indigenous Crafts; Native Worship; Ritual and Ceremonies.

Conference hosts include Dr. Michael J. Christensen, Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, Drew University and Rev. Dr. Robert J. Duncan, Jr. President, Bacone College.

There will also be cultural visits to the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Three Rivers Museum and Ataloa Lodge Museum.

The cost for lodging at the Bacone College Inn and Conference Center is \$45 per night for single/

double and includes a continental breakfast for those staying at the Inn. The cost for meals is \$50 for 11th dinner, 12th lunch, 12th dinner and 13th lunch. The Continuing Education Fee is \$195. The program fee is included in tuition for DMIN students.

DMIN student should register for [CONCD 900 002] on www.drew.edu/registrar. All other should register on www.bacone.edu.

For lodging reservations contact, Bacone Inn and Conference Center, 2360 E. Shawnee Rd. at 1-800-783-0103.

For more information on the conference, log on to www.bacone.edu or www.drew.edu/theo/dmin. You may also contact Rev. Leroy W. Thompson, Director of Conferences & Retreats and Adjunct Instructor in Religion at 918-781-6286.



theatre style. Youth and adults are invited to come enjoy the activities.

The church is located from the junction of Main Street and Lake Road in Henryetta, go south 4 1/4 miles, then the road will curve and go east 2 1/2 miles to Salem Baptist Church, then go south approximately 3 1/2 miles and this road will curve eastward to the Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church sign. For more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 650-0388.

Gospel Singing

WELEETKA — Alabama Indian Baptist Church will be having a gospel singing October 30.

The singing will begin at 6 p.m. All groups welcome. Concession will be available.

The church is located from Highway 75 to south end of Weleetka then north on Clearview road one mile.

25th Annual Gospel Singing

HANNA — Trenton Baptist Church will be having their 25th Annual Gospel Singing on October 30 at 7 p.m. The emcee will be The Gospel Lights. All singers and listeners welcome.

The church is located four miles west of Hanna.

Veteran's Day Celebration

BIXBY — Snake Creek Indian Baptist Church will be having a Tenth Annual Veteran's Day Celebration November 6 at 6 p.m. until everyone leaves.

All veterans and non-veterans welcome this year honoring "Gold Star Mothers." Refreshments will be served.

Memorial Gospel Singing

HENRYETTA — Billy Joe Harjo Memorial

Gospel Singing will be held November 6 at Little Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church.

The singing will begin at 7 p.m. and the emcee will be Herb Billy of The Gospel Lights.

Concession will be available and all singers and listeners welcome.

The church is located from Highway 75 north of Henryetta and south of Okmulgee, take the Wilson Road turn off going west (under railroad tracks), at the first four way stop, turn north and go one mile. The church is on the west side of the road.

Church Revival

WETUMKA — Tookparfka Baptist Church will be having a revival November 7 thru 10.

Sunday morning service begins at 11 a.m., Sunday evening service begins at 6 p.m. and Monday thru Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m. nightly.

The evangelist will be Earnest Best. Everyone welcome.

The church is located five miles south of Horntown on Highway 75 & 3 1/4 miles east.

Veteran's Gospel Singing

SEMINOLE — Little River Full Gospel Mission Church is holding a Veteran's Gospel Singing November 13 at 7 p.m.

The emcee will be Larry Harrison with Lively Stones. All groups, solos and listeners welcome.

The church is located west on Highway 9 from Seminole State College, go to Little River Mission sign then turn south and go to the "T" intersection, then turn west and follow road to church. Signs will be posted.

For more information contact Larry, Helen or Phillip Harrison at 405-382-6905.

Society

continued from page 4

serving as Pastor of Bemo Indian Baptist Church.

Rev. Doyle retired from the Jimmie Jones welding supply company in 1975 after 25 years of service. Nora is a homemaker.

The DoYLES have one daughter, Verbea Coulter of Portland, Oregon and one son, James Doyle of Tulsa. There is 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The event was hosted by the members of the Womens Missionary Union Indian Fellowship Baptist Church.

Citizen advances to Indian Nation Finals Rodeo

SABOBA, CA — William Fish of Wellston has made it to the Indian Nation Finals Rodeo in Saboba, California on Oct. 21-24.

William is a graduate of Wellston high school. He is currently employed with Evans and Associates.

There will be tribes from all over the United States and Canada gathering in California to see to who will be the National Champion. There are 13 regions divided through the United States that consist of many different tribes, William represents the Choctaw Nation All Indian Rodeo Association, known as region 8 of Oklahoma. He is one of the top two contestants in the bullriding, who will compete against the top two in 12 other regions.

William is the son of life long resident of Harrah, Tony Fish and Betty Fields of Tulsa.

Re/Max names Benham chief operating officer

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO — Bruce Benham has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer at Re/Max International. During his 12 years with Re/Max International, Bruce has served as Director of Information Services, Vice President of Information Technology and most recently was Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer.

"Bruce is an amazing individual," commented Marga-

ret Kelly, Re/Max president. "Besides a very savvy businessman, he epitomizes the Will Rogers philosophy of I've never met a stranger." Anyone who has ever met or worked with him truly admires him. Re/Max continues to experience record setting growth and we are fortunate that Bruce is always eager to take on new challenges."

Benham was instrumental in developing support software, services and technology to meet the present and future needs of the Re/Max system, all while fulfilling his duties as senior officer in charge of Re/Max satellite Network, approved supplier programs and Corporate Training. He was honored in 2001 with the first ever CIO of the year award from the center for information technology innovation (CITI), a center at the business school of the University of Colorado at Denver. In 2004, he received the Re/Max International Distinguished Service Award, the most prestigious recognition in the organization. He earned a certified computing professional designation in 1997 and has participated in extensive advanced technical, managerial and leadership training programs.

As Chief Operating Officer, Benham will oversee the operations of approved suppliers, communications, community affairs, conventions, human resources, information technology, re/max satellite network and training.

Root joins RBC Mortgage Banker

TULSA — Frances Root joined RBC Mortgage on Sept. 1 as a loan officer specializing in Emerging Markets. Emerging Markets ensures, in each community RBC Mortgage serves, that the company utilizes all local and federal programs to better serve the mortgage needs of our service area. RBC Mortgage is an approved Section 184 lender, and has programs written under the My Community federal guidelines.

Frances will develop relationships with various tribal and community housing authorities throughout Oklahoma. She will serve as a liaison between the various entities, the customer and RBC Mortgage, to assist individuals in achieving home ownership.

Frances comes to RBC Mortgage from the Tulsa Housing Authority (THA), where she served as the Home Ownership Coordinator working with low to moderate income individual, Section 8 housing vouchers, and implementing down payment and closing cost as-



Benham



Fish



Root

sistance for first time home buyers. Through THA, Frances provided homebuyer education for their home ownership programs.

Prior to serving with THA, Frances was the senior loan officer with the Creek Nation Housing Authority mortgage assistance program. In this capacity, she and the CNHA were able to provide housing assistance to over 100 families.

Root's career started in banking in 1984 as a loan operations supervisor. Her interest shifted to mortgage lending soon afterwards and she set a path on education to achieve her goals. She began taking night classes that same year.

Her educational experience includes the following: B.A. Business Management, Bacone College; A.A. Liberal Arts, TCC; Indian Housing Specialist in Homebuyer Education, Salish Kootenai College; Prep Real Estate school; Oklahoma Certified Homebuyer Education Professional; AHECTI Certified Homebuyer Education Counselor; Certified Development Finance Professional; and National Association of Professional Mortgage Women, Graduate of Mortgage Lending. She is currently working on her Masters of Human Relations degree through the University of Oklahoma. She plans to graduate in 2005.

In addition to education achievements, Frances has involved herself in various volunteer programs: Native American Predatory Lending Task Force Committee; United Way; and current chair for the Johnson O'Malley Indian Education program for the Bristow public schools.

Frances is a member of the Bear clan and a lifelong resident of Bristow. She believes the American dream of homeownership is obtainable for all citizens. She has demonstrated her desire of this goal through commitment to education, the community and the positions she has held and holds today with RBC Mortgage.

If you have any questions about homeownership, please call Frances at (918) 249-8400, ext. 231.

California Creek Association to hold meeting

LOS ANGELES — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association will be holding a special meeting on Nov. 6.

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Mike Flud, Deputy Director of Human Services, Della Cherry, Deputy Director of Community Services, Roberta Haney, Citizenship Manager and Channena Davis, Higher Education Manager will be the special guests at this meeting.

The California Muscogee (Creek) Association serves as a cultural gathering center for new generations of Creek people in California. The association also serves as a clearing house for Muscogee families seeking services within the state of California. They offer language workshops, genealogy classes, story telling, monthly pot luck meetings and much more. The goal of the association is to keep Creek traditions alive and to connect families that have long been separated.

For more information, contact Eli Grayson at 310-487-7706.



RBC Mortgage

RBC Mortgage

Contact: Frances Root, GML

Frances.root@rbc.com

Phone: 918-249-8400 Ext. 231

Fax: 918-249-0877

8282 S. Memorial Suite 100

Tulsa, OK 74133

- Emerging Markets
- Section 184 loans
- FHA-VA
- Loans for Less-Than-Perfect Credit

Okmulgee District representative to update citizens

OKMULGEE — We are now into our tenth month of 2004. The months have come and gone so fast and as a newly elected representative there is still so much to learn. We are a big tribal government with many citizens to serve.

Just recently I was asked "Has it been everything you thought it would be?" My reply was no! Before I was elected, I had worked for the tribe since 1976 in various departments from the Division of Health to the Administration. I felt I knew the internal process of the Administration, but nothing prepares you for the government unless you become an elected official of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. There is so much to learn about our government. I know that two years will not be enough time for any new representative to school themselves totally about our government. We are armed with Codification Laws, The Constitution, council policy and procedures, NIGC regulations, housing IHP, tribal policy and procedures and many other regulations that we have to adhere to. It is in this position that you get to really know what makes this tribal government work. This has been one of the most rewarding times of my life. I have been blessed and honored to have served in this capacity and it is an experience that I can share with my grandchildren.

The position of National Council Representative carries a great responsibility. You get out

of it what you put into it. The responsibility of educating yourself about tribal programs can become an everyday duty. Realizing that we do not satisfy every constituent, but the satisfaction comes when you can assist programs that will reach out to serve more tribal citizens, not only in your district, but others as well.

The standing committee that I serve on is Business and Governmental. I also serve on the Internal Affairs Committee and I am an alternate for the Constitution Committee and Fact Finding committee. I was selected recently to serve as ex-officio for the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Aside from these committees that I serve on, I try to attend the other standing committee meetings just to keep on top of legislation coming out of those committees.

What I see as an elected official is the need to reduce the size of the council representatives and see them hired as full time. This government is growing and there are critical issues that we have to deal with nearly every day. In order to serve this nation to best of our ability and give our undivided attention, this must happen. The terms of our council representative must increase to at least four year terms. Two years is not enough time to give to this government.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve this great nation.

Rita Williams, Okmulgee District Representative Seat D



Questions continued from page 8

is returned to the trust fund. This measure would only become effective if voters approved the lottery contained in House Bill No. 1278 (State Question 705).

STATE QUESTION NO. 707

This measure amends Section 6C of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. The amendment deals with the use of certain city, town, and county taxes and fees. When authorized by law, cities, towns or counties can put these taxes and fees to use in three ways. The first use is specific public investments. The second use is aid in development financing. The third use is an income source for other public bodies in the area.

The legislature can authorize cities, towns and countries to direct the apportionment of these fees and taxes among or between these uses. The amendment allows these apportionments to be prospective. The amendment permits these apportionments to continue from year to year.

The amendment permits cities, towns and countries to pledge certain taxes and fees beyond the current fiscal year and to pledge certain taxes and fees to repay some debts of other public entities.

STATE QUESTION NO. 708

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 23 of Article 10. This section involves the Constitutional Reserve Fund also known as the Rainy Day Fund. This measure changes the amount which would be spent from the Rainy Day Fund. The State Board of Equalization would decide if the taxes the state collects each fiscal year will be less than predicted. This is called revenue failure. If this happens, up to three-eighths (3/8) of the Rainy Day Fund could be spent. The total amount spent from the Rainy Day Fund for revenue failure could not exceed the amount of the funds shortage predicted by the State Board of Equalization. The Rainy Day Fund can be used now if the prediction about state tax collections for the current year is less than the prediction made the year before. One-half of the Fund can be spent now if this occurs. If this measure passes, the amount would change to three-eighths. Money can now be spent from the Fund for certain emergencies. One-half of the fund can now be spent for these emergencies. This measure would change that amount to one quarter.

STATE QUESTION NO. 711

This measure adds a new section of law to the Constitution. It adds Section 35 to Article 2. It defines marriage to be between one man and one woman. It prohibits giving the benefits of marriage to people who are not married. It provides that same sex marriages in other states are not valid in this state. It makes issuing a marriage license in violation of this section a misdemeanor.

STATE QUESTION NO. 712

This measure enacts the State-Tribal Gaming Act. The Act contains a Model Tribal Gaming Compact. Indian tribes that agree to the Compact can use new types of gaming machines. These machines are used for gambling. Compacting tribes could also offer some card games.

If at least four Indian tribes enter into the Compact, three State licensed racetracks could use the same electronic gaming machines.

The Act limits the number of gaming machines racetracks can use. The Act does not limit the number of machines that Indian tribes can use.

The State Horse Racing Commission would regulate machine gaming at racetracks. A tribal agency would regulate authorized gaming by a tribe. The Office of State Finance would monitor authorized tribal gambling.

Proceeds from authorized gaming at racetrack go to:

the racetracks, the owners of winning horses, horsemen's organizations, breed organization, and the State to be used for educational purposes.

Some of the proceeds from authorized gaming by Indian tribes goes to the State. The State would use these proceeds for educational purposes and compulsive gambling programs.

STATE QUESTION NO. 713

The measure ends tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products. The measure places a new tax on cigarettes. This tax will be four cents per cigarette. The measure places a new tax on other tobacco products. These taxes begin January 1, 2005.

A committee is created to recommend rules regarding tobacco product taxes.

The measure makes several income tax changes. It makes the highest Method One individual income tax rate 6.65%. It increases the amount of certain retirement benefits not subject to income tax. It allows certain capital gain of an individual to not be subject to income tax.

The measure sets maximum income level for individuals making claims under the Sales Tax Relief Act. The measure makes other changes.

STATE QUESTION NO. 714

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 8C of Article 10. This measure changes the method for determining the fair cash value of the homestead of certain heads of household. The change only applies to heads of household who meet two requirements. First, they must be at least 65 years old.

Second, their gross household income must meet income level requirements.

This measure changes the income level requirement. At present, to be eligible, the gross household income from all sources must be \$25,000 or below. The amendment changes the qualifying income level. To be eligible under the change, gross household income cannot exceed the area's mean income levels for counties and metropolitan areas. The State Tax Commission must inform each county assessor of the established mean income levels each year.

STATE QUESTION NO. 715

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new section to Article 10. The new section is Section 8E. The measure creates an exemption from property tax. The exemption would apply to certain injured veterans. The exemption would also apply to veterans' surviving spouses. The exemption would be for the full fair cash value of the homestead. To qualify for the exemption an injured veteran would have to meet several requirements. First, the veteran must have been honorably discharged from a branch of the Armed Forces or the Oklahoma National Guard. Second, the veteran would have to be a State resident. Third, the veteran would have to have a 100% permanent disability. Fourth, the disability would have to have been sustained through military action or accident, or result from a disease contracted while in active service. Fifth, the disability would have to be certified by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the veteran would have to be otherwise qualified for homestead exemption. The exemption can be claimed beginning January 1, 2006.

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center

Chief Financial Officer

Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee

LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)

Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention

Health System Administrator - Okmulgee

Head Cook - Muskogee

Nurse Practitioner - Okmulgee

Billing Technician - Okmulgee

Coding Specialist - CNCH

Behavioral Health Clinician - BHS

Pharmacist-Eufaula (Part Time)

Billing Technician-Eufaula

CHR Generalist - Okmulgee

Nurse Practitioner - Eufaula

Van Driver - Bristow - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Eufaula - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Coweta - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Holdenville - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Muskogee - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Okemah - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Sapulpa - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Twin Hills - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Weleetka - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Wetumka - ENP (Part time)

For more information call 756-3334 or visit their website at www.muscogeehealth.org.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Muskogee Document Imaging and Farm Authority.

To apply, come by the office or download the

PDF format at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov, clicking on the link to personnel, then clicking on the link to MCN Trade and Commerce.

Mail your applications to:

Muscogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce
P.O. Box 117

1010 East Eufaula

Okmulgee, OK. 74447

For more information please contact Alexis Crosley at 732-7764.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel

Housing Authority Deputy Director:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from a four year college or university and three to five years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Gaming Commissioner:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services.

Qualifications: Preferred requirements include a Bachelors Degree with business or management experience with an understanding of business and regulatory concepts. Minimum requirements include a Bachelors Degree in business with two years experience. Must possess a valid drivers licence. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Construction Engineer:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Construction.

Qualifications: Masters Degree in Civil Engineering is preferred. Minimum requirements include a Bachelors Degree with knowledge of architectural and engineering functions for the purpose of planning, organizing, direction, and controlling the procedures and standards necessary to accomplish the mission of developing and maintaining a safe and structural and sound working environment. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Day Custodian

Muscogee BIA Building, Okmulgee.

Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Bus Driver / Maintenance (part time):

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Haskell Head Start.

Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma

or equivalent. Must obtain an Oklahoma Bus Drivers Certificate, CDL, CPR, and First Aide Certificate. Must possess a valid drivers license and good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Lighthouse Chief:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Administration

Qualifications: The Lighthouse Chief must have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice plus fifteen credit hours towards a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and ten years or experience in law enforcement, with a preference for federal or tribal law enforcement experience. The ten years experience in law enforcement shall also include at least two years of administrative experience. Each Lighthouse Chief Candidate shall submit to a background investigation conducted by or obtained by the attorney General's Office who will then submit the information to the Principal Chief prior to nomination. The candidate must be Cleet certified. Preference will be given to Creek citizens and then members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

Teacher's Aide (part time):

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Yeager Head Start

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Must have knowledge and experience with Indian interpersonal relationships, previous experience in Early Childhood or Child Development in dealing with children. CDA or Associates Degree in Early Childhood preferred. Must submit to and pass all necessary drug tests and background checks.

Legislative Clerk IV:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council

Must have a high school diploma or equivalent with a working knowledge of Parliamentary Law, Word Perfect, Lotus, File Magic, and Data Base Programs. Knowledge of Grammar, Spelling, punctuation, and format. Ability to take minutes and notes for Committee approval. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian Preference. For more information on any of these jobs, or to apply please write to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447. Or e-mail at jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or call at 732-7827.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.

Muscogee Document Imaging Company provides document storage and imaging services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Document Imaging Company is certified in the State of California as a Minority Business Enterprise, as well as being a certified HUB Zone Small Business Concern. The company's Small Business Administration 8(a) is pending certification. With these certifications, MDIC has secured federal proposed contracts pending notification of award.

MDIC provides a list of services that's in demand in the business world today. The company provides courier service (within a 50 mile radius) from the customer's facilities. This means that MDIC will pick up your documents as is and transport them to their facilities. The documents are then removed from the original containers, inventoried and

placed in standard storage containers. These documents can be stored, digitally



imaged or both, in a climate controlled environment.

MDIC stores documents for at least seven years or longer if needed. Should the customer decide they want their documents imaged, MDIC can also provide indexing to help with the searching for specific documents. This search criterion may be provided by the customer or by MDIC depending on the nature of the documents and the usage needed by the customer.

MDIC can provide digital images of documents, records, maps, engineering drawings, photos, negatives or slides, microfiche, books, or other bound items. Once the documents have been digitally imaged, MDIC is able to provide the customer with the complete access to their document 24 hours a day. These documents can be accessed by a CD Rom or through a secured internet web server. Firewalls, Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology and access management ensure that only authorized personnel are able to view their records.

Should your business require document destruction, MDIC also provides these services. MDIC provides environmentally sound destruction of documents and records. Documents are shredded for confidentiality purposes. Documents are not burned or dumped into landfills.

MDIC is located in Okmulgee at 1010 East Eufaula Street. For more information please contact the Muscogee Document Imaging Company at their toll free number 1 (800)482-1979, ext. 7760 or at (918) 732-7760 or visit their website at www.muscogeedocumentimaging.com.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise receives multiple awards

OKMULGEE—The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), the Federal Contracting company of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, were awarded contracts in Construction Services, Fire and Security and Information Technology Professional Services in Sept.

New contract awards were secured at Altus Air Force Base, Department of Energy BWXT Pantex facility and at US Army Medical Command in San Antonio.

The National Council passed the legislation for the 40 acre development north of the tribal complex during the recent extraordinary session held last week. MNBE construction staff will be performing Construction Management services on this project.

MNBE Construction Services Division is utilizing MNBE Fire & Security for current fire detection work at Altus Air Force Base. Department

of Energy awarded MNBE two sole-source contracts for fire detection projects at the Nuclear Facility in Amarillo, Texas.

MNBE's Information Technology division was awarded in Professional Services to support the U.S. Army Medical Command. MNBE's Board ap-

proved a Teaming Agreement between MNBE and Powernet. This new partnership offers an expanded scope of solutions to government and corporations seeking a full service (design build) diversity supplier for their critical systems infrastructure requirements. The teaming agreement will allow MNBE to provide equipment and turnkey EF&I (engineer, furnish and install)

services, specializing in power quality, CHP, CCHP and integrated battery free applications. MNBE is becoming certified to provide all of their services to Sprint and to SBC Global.



Second Chief Berryhill signs \$1.8 million delivery order award for Altus Air Force Base.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Nation combine new business venture

MUSKOGEE—For the first time ever the Creek and Cherokee Nations are teaming up for a business venture pursuing call center contracts. Both Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Connects, a majority-owned Cherokee Business, are in the call center contracting business, but the signing of a teaming agreement between the two entities will help them both.

"Instead of competing against each other, we have created a stronger business team that will be able to generate a lot more revenue than we would have if we had been working separately", said Chad Smith Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. "At the end of the day, we'll all come out ahead."

"Chief Smith has talked to me many times about becoming partners," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, "We realize that the impact that the two nations could have on Muskogee, Tulsa and this part of Oklahoma could be huge. I think the economy, not only for the two nations, but the economy of this area will improve immensely."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has created business advantages by attaining preferential 8(a) contracting status through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Cherokee Connects brings years of experience in the call center industry to the table. The Cherokee/ Creek teaming agreement enhances the competitive strengths of both the Chero-

kees and the Creeks.

"Together, we have much more power in the market place than by ourselves," said Ron Gates, President of Cherokee Connects. "We are going to be cooperating rather than competing."

"This is a great opportunity for our tribal business to use the power of our tribes to benefit our citizens and diversity our business base" said Michael Nalley, Director of MNBE.

"Business and nations come together for a cause, for a reason," Smith said. "The reason for this teaming agreement is that we have the same goals, to create jobs and bring economic prosperity to northeastern Oklahoma."

Principal Chiefs Ellis and Smith signed a document memorializing the teaming agreement in Muskogee. Smith said it speaks to

the greater bond between the two nations. "We've been political allies since the Trail of Tears, lived under the same federal regimes. Of all the tribes here, we have the closest bonds with the Creeks."

Muskogee was a natural place for the announcement, located between Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation, and Okmulgee, the capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Creek and Cherokee border runs northeast to southwest through Muskogee.



Michael Nalley, right, explains the enormous potential of this business venture to Chief Ellis, left, and Cherokee Chief Chad Smith.

Spotlight

"Veterans, the answer will always be no if you do not seek or ask." — Ken Davis

Bridging the gap for our veterans

by Gerald Wofford

It has always been a top priority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to serve its citizens to the best of its ability. The Elderly Nutrition Center, Children and Family Services and Housing Development are fine examples of this statement. However, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis felt there was one important group that might just have been overlooked, the military veterans of the tribe. So Chief Ellis created an office and selected a spokesman to serve our veterans. Ken Davis is that person looking to serve our tribal veterans.

"It has been a high priority of mine to establish a Veterans office since I was Second Chief," says Ellis. "Our tribe has a lot of men and women that have served honorably, proudly, and bravely. We will do all we can to help our veterans receive the services and benefits guaranteed to them."

Davis is the director of the newly created Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office. Davis is a former Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Major Davis served on active duty from 1981 to 1985 and the Marine Reserves from 1987 to 1993. Davis is a combat veteran of the war for Kuwait in 1991. During his combat duty Davis was a Platoon Commander for antitank missiles (TOW). "Leading Marines in combat was and is the highest honor I will ever have," says Davis. "I will always remember and revere their sacrifices and courage."

Davis is a military man through and through and looks at the new department as a good challenge. Davis even moved his family from Grove, located in far northeast Oklahoma, to be more committed.

"First," states Davis, "mission assigned. The mission of the Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office is to assist in the planning, organizing, submission, tracking/monitoring, and fulfillment of the Muscogee Veteran's administrative requirements and evidence needed documentation for benefits rendered through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs."

As mentioned earlier, Davis is a military man through and through, realized the need for an office to assist Muscogee (Creek) Veterans who sometimes do not always look for help and services. Davis said he has noticed this characteristic in veterans, especially right after they have fulfilled their terms in the military. He describes it as a lack of knowledge and understanding of what they (veterans) have secured through their service to our country.

"I remember before leaving for both active duty and the reserves the lack of information that was passed to me," says Davis. "And more importantly, my men, about what exactly we rated through our service. In all, United States

Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services available to us was a mystery. Secondly, veterans are somewhat reluctant to ask."

It is the reluctance of veterans to seek help that somewhat bothers Davis. "Veterans, the answer will always be no if you do not seek or ask," says Davis. "It is very important to note what has been set aside from a grateful country and the State of Oklahoma is not, I repeat, is not, to be considered by Muscogee veterans and all veterans as an entitlement, grant, or give away. Everything that is available to Muscogee veterans has been earned! Muscogee veterans, you

have earned and secured benefits through your blood, sweat, and tears in honorable service to our great and appreciative country and the State of Oklahoma."

Davis is dedicated to seeing that Creek Veterans get attention and their just benefits. Some of those benefits include: disability benefits, education and training benefits, and vocational rehabilitation and employment as well. Davis also looks at home loans, dependent's and survivor's benefits, life insurance and overall health care as being part of the care and service to veterans of the tribe.

One important benefit that Davis is looking closely at right now is burial assistance. Burial assistance in the sense of making sure a female veteran of the tribe who died long ago is given a proper head stone. "For our past veterans, we need a permanent honor roll with all of their military particulars and a cemetery headstone provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs honoring their service, if their families have not already secured one," says Davis. "For our present veterans, we need to prepare them for their return to civilian life and assist them in securing the benefits and services they have earned due to their honorable and courageous service."

Davis says he has had nothing but 100% support from the US Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Davis works as a liaison solely through the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs in Muskogee.

One act of present service that Davis is definitely preparing for is care packages to Creek military personnel serving in the Middle East.

"On or about November 10 of this year, this office will begin shipping care packages directly from our tribe to our Muscogee citizens in the military stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan," says Davis. "The care packages will contain nonperishable food items and reading literature. I ask the families and Creek communities of military personnel on duty in Iraq or Afghanistan to please contact me with the name, rank, unit, and overseas military mailing address so this office can prepare, pack, and send the care packages to your loved ones stationed in war zones."



Director of Veterans Affairs Services Major Ken Davis
photo by Gerald Wofford

Shop talk with Gerald

Congratulations to area Creek athletes Samantha Tecumseh, Missy Fox and Mindy Chancey for helping their respective softball teams, Wilson, Oktaha and Henryetta High Schools have such a great season. Oktaha and Henryetta advanced to the state tournament this year. Both teams lost close games where they were in a position to win.

Nobody expected the Oklahoma State Cowboys football team to be doing as well as they have. Considering all the factors, it wasn't exactly an unwise conclusion. The Cowboys entered the season with redshirt freshman Donovan Woods at the helm. The rookie never did look back and made bold promises at the beginning of this year. "I expect us to be just as explosive and have the same big play capability," Woods said. "I don't look at the 2004 season as rebuilding. We're just adding some new parts. We expect the machine to run the same."

Down a little farther south, sooner land is embracing a time of truth in their football schedule. Oklahoma posted a 12-0 victory over the Texas Longhorns to make it five in a row. The Kansas State Wildcats, who beat OU in the Big 12 Championship game, will host the Sooners in Manhattan on Oct. 16. The number two team in the nation will also have to visit the Cowboys in Stillwater on Oct. 30.

The same could be said of the these Cowboys who go to Missouri on Oct., host the Sooners on Oct. 30, and travel to Austin to play the Longhorns on Nov. 4. The Dusty Dvoracek situation in Norman seemed to surprise some people in the media and the fans as well. After all, here was this year's Captain of the football team being suspended for some off the field indiscretions. The defensive line will miss him, especially during this month with opponents relying heavily on the running game.

Problems with any college athlete concerning a dismissal from the team is nothing to smile about. But on the other side, when has the University of Oklahoma not had problems with their athletes? That's not to say all Oklahoma athletes are bad, but remember in Coach Barry Switzer's tenure when he had problems with his players, such as Charles Thompson. Switzer was accused of running a renegade program by the national media when that certainly wasn't the case. Even the man that started the monster, Bud Wilkinson, had his troubles with athletes back in the day. The point is, college athletes will be college athletes and the need to bring down discipline like Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops did. Even if it is with a team Captain.

Don't forget to get your team in the Second Annual Warriors Showcase Shootout Basketball Tournament. Creek Nation programs have showed thier support of our youth by helping fund this tournament. For more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or visit our website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov. and go to upcoming events.

MNN Athlete of the Month: Wilson Lady Tigers

WILSON — When nobody believes in you, the hard climb uphill can be that much harder. Take the Wilson Lady Tigers softball team for example. The Lady Tigers weren't expected to do very well at the beginning of this season.. But time has a way of changing things and it has for the Lady Tigers.

The girls from Wilson came out with a plan to make some noise in class B softball. The Lady Tigers were able to win their district by beating rival Canadian, run-ruling them not only once, but twice.

"People wrote us off," said first year Coach Rick Duncan, "but that was last year."

Duncan has coached at places such as Ames, Boynton, Midway and Maud, winning state titles in both softball and basketball. Wilson holds a dear special place in Duncan's heart, he is a 1965 graduate of the school. Duncan admires the heavy Muscogee (Creek) influence that surrounds the tiny community that is so sports crazy.

The Lady Tigers finished the regular season at

15 wins and 11 losses, but played three number one teams ranked in their classes: Henryetta, Canadian, and Oktaha.

"About three-fourths of the girls that play on this team are of Creek descent," says Duncan. "To these girls, this is thier national sport."

Creek athletes that Duncan is really high on include: freshman pitcher, Samantha Tecumseh; catcher Marissa Bear; and first baseman, Christine Fischer. Bear and Tecumseh are cousins and grew up playing the sport.

Their season is over now, but the Wilson squad is a young team, only losing one player to

graduation. So that leaves all other players that will be returning next year with more wisdom and experience. At least that's what Coach Duncan is hoping for.

"There is a good future for softball at Wilson because there are so many young ones here," said Duncan.



The Wilson Lady Tigers are excited about the future of their softball program.
photo by Gerald Wofford

Littlebear's play for Sapulpa is very big

SAPULPA — His name may contain the word little, but this Muskogee (Creek) athlete's game is anything but little.

Martin Littlebear is a senior at Sapulpa High School and has seen his Chieftain ball team get off to a terrific start.

For the first time since 1994, the Sapulpa Chieftains began their season with three consecutive wins and no losses. This can be a very hard task being positioned in Class 6A, which is the biggest class among Oklahoma High Schools.

Littlebear sees action on both the defensive and offensive sides of the ball. When Sapulpa is moving the ball down the field, Littlebear helps open

the line as an offensive lineman for running backs, such as Dee Alexander. Running backs have been churning up the yardage for the Chieftains.

"He's done a real good job for us," says second year Head Coach Mike Hainzinger. "Everyone likes him. He's not only a good athlete, but he's a good student in the classroom as well."

On the defensive side, Littlebear takes care of business as a defensive end. Unfortunately, Littlebear is seeing some injured reserve time right now. A recent knee injury has him sidelined for a couple of weeks, but this Creek player, with the



Sapulpa senior offensive linemen and defensive end Martin Littlebear, looks forward to playing again.
photo by Gerald Wofford

little name, will be back on the playing field making big plays.

Opinion

continued from page 3

refer to the congregation as "tecakkeyate" (te-cak-ke-ya-te) "my brothers" and "cvtcostvlke" (cvt-cos-tvl-ke) "my sisters."

We were created as a family and we should try to get along with our brothers and sisters. One of the greatest commandments in the Bible is to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." What better way to do that knowing that we are a family? Even the word for cousin "cvnahvmke" (cv-na-hvm-ke) means "my one body".

We are attempting to review all policy and procedures to see how we can get better services to you and it's going to take a little while. I ask that you be a little more patient with us while we look at these policy and procedures. Right now there are a lot of policies that says "we can't" and we want to change that to "we can".
Mvto.

Mvskoke History Series

By

Patrick E. Moore

Thousands of years ago, the *Mvskoke* traded extensively throughout what is now North America. They also traded with Native Americans from as far away as Central America. The *Mvskoke* traders traveled rivers, streams and the ocean by canoe (*Kenu* - a Taino word meaning a boat carved out of a tree. The Taino inhabited the Caribbean and were southern neighbors to the *Mvskoke Confederacy*. Early Europeans used the word canoe to describe long keelless boats used in North & South America, Mesoamerica and Circum-Caribbean areas of the western hemisphere) and used footpaths for inland destinations. Their canoes were of varying size from a small two man vessel to the giant canoe with a huge cargo area powered by up to fifty *Mvskoke* crewman.

The *Mvskoke* constructed their largest cargo and ocean going canoes from giant cypress logs. The *Mvskoke* tradesman frequently traveled along the eastern ocean (Atlantic Ocean) shore line and the sea (Gulf of Mexico) to the south, as they engaged in commerce or war.

1790's Spanish warships made a practice of hijacking *Mvskoke* canoes on the ocean and inland on the larger rivers. These Spanish thieves commandeered *Mvskoke* property and trade goods. They sometimes destroyed the canoe and injured or killed *Mvskoke* crew members in the process.



By the early 1790's William Augustus Bowles, a one-time British Army Officer, veteran of the Revolutionary War, navigator and diplomat, was training *Mvskoke Warriors* in the art of war and navigation. Bowles was later to become the *Director General of the Creek Nation*.

Bowles refitted one of the largest *Mvskoke* canoes with a four-pounder cannon in the bow and cleverly disguised the cannon within a frame work resembling a cargo of deerskins. He then proceeded to practice war games at sea with a hand picked crew of battle tested *Mvskoke* soldiers.

Finally the day came to test this new *Mvskoke War Canoe*. General Bowles and crew entered the Gulf of Mexico, baiting Spanish warships, soon a many gunned cutter appeared. Bowles ordered his crew to fake an attempt escape as they had practiced. The *Mvskoke* crew paddled wildly toward the distant shore until the Spanish fired a shot over the *Mvskoke* and commanded them to halt.

The *Mvskoke* ceased paddling and turned their bow toward the Spanish cutter, that was in the process of lowering her sails. When the Spanish were dead in the water, the *Mvskoke* war canoe paddled closer, still pointing their bow directly at the cutter. When Spanish commander ordered them to come alongside his ship or be blown out of the water, Bowles crept ever closer and when within 100 yards Bowles uncovered the four-pounder and lit the fuse. The resulting blast and recoil moved the *Mvskoke* war canoe backward in the water. The Spanish cutter vibrated when the *Mvskoke* cannon ball hit amidships, wood flew and Spaniards dove for cover.

General Bowles, closing in on the cutter, ordered another shot and this cannon ball knocked the Spanish cutter's bow swivel gun out of commission, eliminating any further firing by the Spanish until they could make sail and turn broadside. *Mvskoke* oarsmen swiftly moved the disguised war canoe out of Spanish cannon range long and into a nearby river before the cutter could make sail. The damaged Spanish cutter then limped back to either New Orleans or Havana. Word of the *Mvskoke* war canoe spread quickly and seizure of *Mvskoke* trade goods ceased.

The late 1790's witnessed the *Mvskoke Navy* make its presence known from the Atlantic side of Florida into the Florida Keys and throughout the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans. A well armed schooner, the *Muscogee Micco* commanded by Captain Richard Powers, sailing out of Nassau, Bahamas, appeared. This era of southeastern sea history was dominated by a *Mvskoke Nation* government that commissioned privateers (A ship owned and operated by a private person authorized by a nation to damage and/or capture the ships of an enemy by acts of warfare at sea.) to deal with hostile Spanish warships and galleons (Armed merchant ships used by Spain to explore and pillage of the Americas.), which were interrupting trade and profitable commerce with England, a nation friendly to the goals and ideals of the *Mvskoke Nation*.

Spanish naval vessels were in the habit of capturing *Mvskoke Nation* commercial ships flying the *Mvskoke Sun* (Flag of the *Mvskoke Nation*). This new *Mvskoke*

Navy initially captured a Spanish fishing boat, which became the *Muscogee Tostenoke*, which was then armed with cannon and sailed into the Gulf, with a Captain, Two Lieutenants and thirty man crew. Additional privateers were commissioned until the *Mvskoke Navy* controlled most offshore waters.

The *Mvskoke Nation* declared war on Spain and quickly attracted more privateers because a *Mvskoke Nation* privateer's commission or compensation was two-thirds of all bounty seized. The *Mvskoke Nation* only kept one-third of the plunder, the overall objective was to control trade and commerce in the southeast. *Mvskoke* privateers were of all nationalities, but most of the Captains were English.

The *Mvskoke Navy*, at sea, operated in wolf packs of three vessels. A wolf pack maneuvered Spanish merchant ships into shallow water where they were militarily overpowered and commandeered. The captured ship then escorted to the Apalachicola River, then upstream to *Mvskoke Nation* Naval headquarters, where captured cargos were divided in accordance with strict printed rules and regulations (Director General Bowles caused the *Mvskoke Nation* Admiralty Rules and Regulations to be published in the Bahama Gazette, February 7 - 11, 1800.) captured ships then armed and added to the *Mvskoke Navy*.

Mvskoke Nation cannon fortified high bluffs on each bank of the Apalachicola River preventing passage of hostile Spanish ships upstream. The *Mvskoke Nation* also organized and convened an Admiralty Court (A court that exercises jurisdiction over all maritime contracts, torts, injuries, or offenses.) at its navel headquarters. This special court was responsible for enforcement of *Mvskoke Law, Rules and Regulations*, and it administered maritime justice by trial, sentenced violators, and settled civil claims.

The *Mvskoke Nation Navy* continued to operate until 1803 when the new government of the United States combined with Spain Crown diplomatically persuaded England to close her West Indies ports to all ships flying the *Mvskoke Sun* (*Mvskoke Nation's Flag*).

The Director General was captured at Hickory Ground in early June 1803 by Upper Creeks and turned over to Spanish authorities. Historians have alluded to involvement by the United States in this capture because William Augustus Bowles certainly prevented westward expansion into aboriginal *Mvskoke* homeland.

William Augustus Bowles spent the next two and a half years in Spanish custody jailed in the Morrow Castle dungeon, Havana, Cuba. His health steadily deteriorated for no apparent reason and he was transferred to San Ambrosia Military Hospital early in December 1805 where he died December 23, 1805. He was 42 years of age and had spent his entire adult life living with and fighting for the *Mvskoke*. The Spanish doctor treating him wrote in his journal, William Augustus Bowles died of a broken heart.

ANTHONY ALLEN

BRISTOW — Funeral services for Anthony Joe "Tony" Allen were held August 30 at Mutteloke Church with Pastor Jerry Byrd officiating.

He was born to Jesse Allen and Hannah Allen on January 24, 1958 in Huntington Park, California.

Anthony attended Jones Academy and has been a resident of Bristow his entire life. He was a dedicated employee of Kwikset and worked on the assembly. Tony loved the outdoors and enjoyed working with horses.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include: four sons, Jesse of Granite, Cosena, Nathan and David, all of Tulsa; daughter, Neosha of Tulsa; mother; three brothers, Corky of Hixson, Tennessee, Robert and Byron, both of Bristow; two sisters, Poni of Norman and Adrienne of Tulsa; one granddaughter; and a host of relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Bruce and Marty Bigpond; Billy Brown; Lester Revis; Bobby Cargil and Burt Patadal.

Interment was at the Allen Family Cemetery.

MATTHEW BERRYHILL

WETUMKA — Funeral services for Matthew Kyle "Hvtke" Berryhill were held September 15 at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Fred Lindsey officiating.

He was born March 25, 1994 in Ada to Sheila Faye Berryhill Remis.

Matthew was raised in Wetumka and Wewoka area. He was currently attending school at Wewoka elementary and was in the fourth grade. Berryhill enjoyed going to school and loved sports. He also enjoyed riding his bike, spending time with his family and friends, going to church and listening to all kinds of music.



Berryhill

Survivors include: his mother and stepfather, Sheila Remis and David Williams; sisters and brothers, Lacie and Austin Williams of Wewoka and Shawn and Kimberly Remis of Henryetta; grandparents, Chubby and Shirley Berryhill of Wetumka; aunts; uncles; and a host of cousins, relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Gene Berryhill; David Williams; David Lindsey; Tommy, Sam Jr. and Shawn Remis.

Interment was at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery.

MARK CAMPBELL JR.

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Mark Tracey Campbell Jr. were held June 4 at the Taylor Family Cemetery with Rev. Malcolm Tiger presiding and assisted by Rev. Jim Jameson.

He was born in Garland, Texas on May 18, 1984.

Mark enjoyed playing basketball and played for

his church team, New Life Baptist Church. He was in the process of organizing an All Indian Men's Basketball team with his best friend, Sean Frazier.

Campbell lived all his life in Garland, attended Garland Public Schools and worked in the area.

He was preceded in death by his great grandparents, Charley T. and Fannie Mitchell Taylor.

Survivors include: sister, Lindsay K. Sheets of Edgewood, Tex.; three brothers, Bryan Campbell of Texarkana, Tex., Charlie of Corsicana, Tex. and Rusty Sheets of Antlers; grandmother, Lennah Daniels of Garland, Tex.; aunts; uncles; two nephews; one niece and numerous cousins and friends.

CHARLES GRAY

ARKANSAS CITY, KAN. — A recitation of Holy Rosary for Charles Gordon Gray was held May 27 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He was born January 18, 1938, at the Chilocco Hospital to Charles and Zelda Ann Tau-u-neacie Gray.

Charles attended grade school at Chilocco and high school in Arkansas City. He later attended the OSU- Okmulgee.

Gray married Annelore Jannek on September 6, 1975 at Joseph Catholic Church in Tonkawa. Charles worked at Struther Wells Thermo-Flood and Peabody Gordon and Platt both at Strother Field. Later, he worked for Texaco Oil Refinery in El Dorado, Kansas.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserves and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Arkansas City, Kansas.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include: his wife of the home; three sons, Gordon of the home, Simon and Cory, both of Arkansas City; brother, Daniel of Bartlesville; sister, Almeta Tonips of Fort Worth, Texas; and three grandchildren.

A memorial has been established with Hospice of North Central Oklahoma, c/o Hawks Funeral Home, 906 W. Kansas Avenue, Arkansas City, Kansas, 67005.

ELIZABETH PORTER

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Elizabeth Thompson Wacoche Porter were held June 29 at Shurden Chapel with Rev. George Doyle and Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

She was born February 4, 1911 in Pierce to Katie and George Thompson.

Porter was a homemaker and is known all over Creek Nation as a piano player - playing for Indian churches when needed, revivals or services.

Elizabeth was a member of Grave Creek Church in Hitchita in the capacity of Woman Leader and also woman leader at Snake Creek Church at Bixby. She also attended churches at Silver Springs, located at Tiger Mountain, Cedar Creek, Coweta, Yardeka Indian Baptist, all in the Henryetta area.

Preceding her in death was: her husbands, Rev. Willie S. Wacoche & Rev. Barney Porter; three children, Pauline McCombs, Rueben "Butch" Wacoche and Janie Wacoche; and three grandsons.

Survivors include: son, Benjamin Wacoche of Oklahoma City; daughters, Ramona Lincoln of Coweta, Jean Berryhill of Okmulgee and Ruby Gleaton of Tulsa; twenty-two grandchildren; forty-five great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren; as well as a host of friends and other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Charley & Melvin Sack; Mark & Mike Berryhill; Ben Jr. and Bryan Wacoche.

Honorary pallbearers were: Ames Harjo; Rev. Jimmie Alexander; Andy Hale; Newman Thompson; Second Chief Alfred Berryhill; and Woody Wilson.

Interment was at Lackey Cemetery.

ERNESTINE MARSHALL

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Funeral services for Ernestine Martin Marshall were held Oct. 13 at the Luyden Family Mortuary with the Rev. Matthew McCosar officiating.

She was born in Oklahoma to Salina Carr and Rev. Dave Martin of the Hitchita Indian Baptist Church on May 2, 1921.

Ernestine married Charles Marshall a WWII veteran and moved to Long Beach during the 1940's, where she resided for more than 50 years. She was a member of Brighter Day Indian Baptist Church for many years.

Ernestine was one of the very few full blood Creeks who still lived in California. She was a board member of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association and was grandmother to all who knew her. Ernestine had a vision that all Muscogee people will know their traditions no matter where they lived. Her unabashed support for California Creek families finds no equal. Mvto Ernestine.

Preceding her in death was her husband, parents and sister, Doris Spirlock.

Survivors include: two sons, Ronald Sparks and Charles Marshall Jr., three grandchildren, Richard Sparks, Janet Sparks Feldmen and Letitia Tapia, three sisters, Alma Brown, Margaret Roberts and Annabel Cowan, six great grandchildren and one great grandchild, plus a host of other family and friends.

Interment was at Forest Lawn of Long Beach.

Gratitude

We would like to thank all the friends and special people who have assisted in bringing her home. Just remember that smile she had for each and every one of you. Thank you and God bless you.

Minnie L. Jeffley Spicer family

We would like to thank you for your kindness shown to our mother during her illness and our time of sorrow: Heritage Hospice Staff; Ella Cook; Cindy; Georgie; Lee; Carol; Jessie; Laveme; Chebon; Adam; David Dunson; Leona Zink; Daphne Baker; Thlophthocco Church; Springfield Church; Rev. Jerry Byrd; Kelly Tiger; Allen Yargee; Gary Dunson; Lori Robinson and Salt Creek UMC. May God bless each and every one of you.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends mean to us. Your kind expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Minnie Johnson family

Gathering of Hearts and Native American Arts to benefit organizations that affect Native Americans

TULSA — Native American art lovers will get the chance to view some of their favorite local artists' work and help a charity at the Gathering of Hearts and Native American Arts show on Nov. 19 through 21 at the Marriott Southern Hills Hotel located at 71st and Lewis.



2003 art show artists and displays

Yankton Sioux artist Joe Chamberlain is putting together the show. Part of the proceeds from the show will benefit the following three hand-picked organizations: American Indian and Minority Health Incorporated, American Diabetes Association, and the Domestic Violence Intervention Service Incorporated. "I wanted to pick organizations that affect Native Americans," stated Chamberlain.

A host of Native American artists will be featured during the three day show. Artists on the bill include: Joe Chamberlain, Merlin Little Thunder, Dana Tiger, Victoria Mason, Niles Bosin, Juanita Hermanns, Gina Smith, Judy Cosar, Mary Howard, Gary Montgomery, Mike Daniel, Mel Cornshucker, Matthew Bearden, Jon Tiger, Lloyd D. Harjo, Crow Jr., Sonny Crow, Jane Osti, Daniel McCoy, Jr., Wilma Whitaker, Tennyson Reid, Warren Walkingstick, Margie Fuhrman, Michael D. Loman, Merle Big Medicine, Richard Beaver, Ruben Cully, Joe Don Brave and Bill McCulley.

Several of the featured artists are Creek citizens. Local Creek figurative artist, Mary Howard, paints in acrylics. She has a few years

of formal training in graphic design, but decided to return to her first love, fine art.

Her subject matter consists of her life experiences and heritage. She enjoys painting the animals that represent her tribe's clans. She also takes great pleasure in painting children with their uncompromising innocence. Her true passion is creating a timeless depiction of feminine sensuality and inner strength within her portraits of women.

Howard had her first one women show in 2003 at the Artistic Indulgence Gallery in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her show was sponsored by Target as part of the event *Art On The Town* in which 86 galleries were showcased. One of her paintings, *Morning Visitor*, was featured in the periodical, *Art & Antiques* under Market Focus in the October, 2003 issue. Howard currently resides in Okmulgee.

Richard Beaver, member of the Wind clan, has been painting since he was 12 years old. His stepfather Lee Joshua, a well-known Creek Artist, encouraged Beaver to continue his education and develop his own style in art and obtain the necessary strength within yourself. Beaver explained his belief about the talent of art. "I believe in doing Native art, which is a gift from the Great Creator. With this gift that each native artist has, no one can take that from them."

Beaver had a few words to say about the upcoming art show in Tulsa. "Gathering of Hearts and Native American Arts show is a great event that

can help local artist exhibit and sale their art work. Some local artist can't afford booth fee's to enter their art at some shows. I believe this will help

them and myself in showing art and meeting people."

Beaver's artistic efforts have been used towards teaching native youth to utilize their talents during youth camps and other events. He has also donated art for miscellaneous Creek Nation and community events to use for material design with t-shirts, signs, posters and more.

Howard also commented on the importance of the show. "Not only is it a venue to sell my art, it also offers an opportunity for me to give something back. The organizations that the Gathering of Hearts and Native American Art show benefits are very substantial and I have either been directly or indirectly affected through my family and friends by the issues these programs focus on."

Creek art has been around since the beginning of Creek existence and has been passed down throughout several generations, revealing stories, culture, history, events and more. Creek art comes in many different styles and techniques, demonstrating moods, emotions and motivation.

The artists' reception will be open to the public and is slated for Friday, Nov. 19 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The show will continue on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and end on Sunday with a showing time of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Catering opportunities to meet the artists and organizations representatives will be provided at the receptions as well. Open exhibits will be Friday evening for those wanting to arrive early and get the first look at the various pieces of native art.

Creek citizens are encouraged to attend the upcoming art show and visit local artist exhibits in efforts of supporting area Creek artists. For more information, contact Joe Chamberlain at (918) 902-0207.



Howard exhibits her acrylic paintings during show.



Mary Howard demonstrates the art of acrylic painting at her exhibit booth.



Richard Beaver painting



National Museum of the American Indian

Grand Opening Sept. 21, 2004

"On behalf of the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum, I want to thank you from the bottom of my hearts for honoring us with your presence on this very special day in the fall equinox season in September 2004. Today Native Americans take their rightful place on the National Mall of the very shadow of the Nation Capital building itself. That act establishes a powerful physical, cultural, and spiritual market for the agents in recognition of the First Citizens of the Americans." — **Richard West , Director of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian**

"This new museum visually stunning inside and out, is a beautiful blend of old and new, nature and technology, symbolism and significant, it's a living tribute to the first Americans. Yet this museum is much more than a celebration of the past its on going living testimony to the fatality of native cultures, a fatality that is vibrantly on display here today and will continue. Our first American festival which is six days celebration of music, song, dance, and story telling produced by the National Museum of American Indian and the Smithsonian Center for Folk Life and Cultural Heritage. The celebration begins immediately after the ceremonies, so our newest museum not only recognizes a cultural legacy of 1000 years, but also today diversity of native people theirs thoughts, wisdom, arts, and knowledge. Visitors will come here to experience the past understanding of their living history, a history they will write. The museum would not be here without the help from around the world." — **Secretary of the Smithsonian Museum**



National Museum of The American Indian



Esther Grona, right, helped represent the Creek tribal senior citizens



Chief A. D. Ellis and Wife, Gail Ellis

All photos courtesy of Ted Isham and MNN staff.



Creek District Representative Roger Barnett



Muscogee Creek Royalty



Muscogee Creek Honor Guard



Creek District Representative Roger
zens Stephanie Harry and Kristie H



Muscogee Creek Nation Chief A.D. Ellis and council
representatives



Muscogee Creek Citizen Lizzy Bruner



September 21st,



Chief Ellis, First Lady Gail and the NMAI Social Dance
Shell Shakers



Glenpool Public



Barnett along with Creek Citi-
rjo



2004



School



Council representatives along with other Muscogee
tribal members



NMAI Procession on the Mall, Tallahassee Wakokaye
Ceremonial Ground and George Coser, Arbeka Cer-
emonial Ground



Poet, singer, song writer Joy Harjo of Hawaii and Eli
Grayson California Muscogee Creek Assoc. of L.A.
pose for pictures



Muscogee Royalty wave to those celebrating the
opening



Displaying traditional wear

A Celebration of 1000 years of culture





Executive Office

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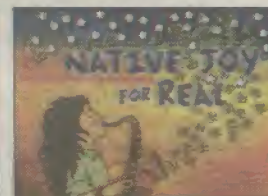
Housing Authority offers help in times of need

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Sports: MNN Athlete of the Month

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Joy Harjo releases new CD

• Page 20



Muscogee Nation News

E-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

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November 2004, 20 Pages

Spring enrollment to begin at the Tribal College

OKMULGEE — Enrollment for the spring semester at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal College will begin on Nov. 15 and will continue until Dec. 23.

Creek specific classes offered during the spring semester will be: Tribal Government, Native American Art, Criminal Justice, and Creek Language I and II. Other general education classes taught by the faculty of OSU-Okmulgee will be offered under the umbrella of the Tribal College.

The Tribal College's fall semester had an enrollment of 31 students. "With the short amount of time we had to create, staff, and enroll students in the Tribal College, the results from our first semester were above our expectations," stated Mike Flud, Deputy Director of Human Development. "The National Council approved the funding for the Tribal College during their meeting in June. Our time frame before classes started was less than two months."

Adults may enroll in up to a total of nine semester hours as a special student without being a high school graduate. The cost of each class is \$294, plus books and a one time application fee of \$15

Through the continued encouragement of Chief Ellis, employees of the Creek Nation are urged to use their career development fringe to continue their education. Again, eligible employees will be allowed to leave work early, with permission of their supervisors, to attend class at the Creek Nation College.

To enroll or for more information about the Tribal College, contact Mike Flud at (918) 732-7726 or (800) 482-1979.



Chief keeps promise, reaches out to tribal citizens



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis is greeted by Allen Mitchell of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association during a recent visit at the request of the association. Tribal administrative officials attended a special gathering hosted by the California Muscogee (Creek) Association earlier this month.

photo by Gerald Wofford

Red Fork Native American Film Festival to be held

OKMULGEE — The Red Fork Native American Film Festival will be held Nov. 19 and 20 at Tulsa Community College West Campus located at 7505 W. 41st Street

The highlight of the festival will be a traditional Maskoke dinner and a musical performance by tribal citizen Joy Harjo on Saturday evening beginning at 7 P.M.

"Our goal is to promote and bring Native American films and documentaries that are not always seen here," said Gerald Wofford, a member of the Red Fork Film Board.

The traditional dinner, as well as the presenta-

tions, is free and open to the public, although donations toward next year's festival and a scholarship fund will be appreciated at the door. The festival is held in conjunction with: Tulsa City-County Library, Eastland Cinema 6, and the Muscogee Nation News.

The festival will be held inside the Student Activities Center on the West Campus of TCC. For a complete schedule of the Red Fork Native American Film Festival, visit

our website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov or contact Gerald Wofford at (918) 732-7634 or e-mail at gwofford@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



Expression of Thanks

Editor:

The members of the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association express their thanks in a big way to National Council member Ron Cleghorn for his donation to our operation a new computer and a new fax machine. We can now more efficiently and more effectively help Creek citizens who come to us.

A big thanks, mvto rakke, to Council member Cleg-horn:

Mvto,

Sue Morgan, President, OCMA, Oklahoma City

Letter of consideration

Editor:

Please give consideration for funding to the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center for the Tobacco Prevention Program Grant.

There are many Muscogee (Creek) youth living in Tulsa that could benefit from the education of this type of tobacco prevention program.

The Tulsa Creek Indian Community would certainly follow the guidelines and objectives of the grant. We have a "No Smoking" policy at the community center and know the importance of getting the message out about the dangers of smoking.

Thank you in advance for all consideration to our proposal for funding. I wholeheartedly support this program.

Sincerely,

Jesse F. Kelley, Tulsa District National Council Representative, Tulsa

Thanks to all Police Officers

Editor:

I would like to say thank you to all police officers, communications officers, criminal investigators, and office personnel at Lighthorse. You're doing a good job and keep up the good work.

Richard Fixico, Lighthorse Interim Chief

Creek historical questions

Editor:

By accident when I was researching non Indian related information on the World Wide Web, your name suddenly popped across my screen.

My name is Dena Bonner and I have two Creek related historical questions to ask you. First, I am going to ask you, if by chance, are familiar with the name Chito Harjo, who was born sometime during the 1800's. Chito, I believe was familiar with Sam Checote.

If my memory serves me correctly, Chito Harjo means, "Crazy Snake". What about the name of Pleasant Porter, or a Nancy Mankiller? When/if you respond I will tell you why I am asking about the above.

My second question, if I have a relative who was on the Dawes Roll, had a number, I have their death certificate and I can prove direct lineage to this person, would I at all be eligible for tribal membership if only honorary?

With all due respect, I am surprised and happy to find

that their is a Creek Nation unit still in existence today. I was always under the impression that the tribe was somehow disbanded.

Any assistance would be appreciated. Many blessings and continued success to you and the rest of the tribe.

Dena Bonner, Silver Springs, MD

Citizen voices concern

Editor:

It seems that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is now going to experience some of the same problems it had in earlier times in 1970's as it had with Chief Claude Cox. His failure to cooperate led to a landmark decision in the case of Harjo vs Kleppe decided in 1978 that allowed Indian tribes to elect their own government officials.

Now under a Creek Nation Tribal Constitution adopted in 1978, a Claude Cox attitude is resurfacing in the office of the Creek Nation's Attorney General's office currently held by Montie Deer. Mr. Deer was appointed to his position by the Principal Chief earlier this year and was recently requested to resign by the same Principal Chief A.D. Ellis from his position due to lack of confidence. That request was repeated. Mr. Deer failed to honor the request and this led to a call for an extraordinary session by the National Council held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 to consider and approval of a tribal "no confidence resolution" for the dismissal of Montie Deer.

The National Council decided to conduct its discussion in an "executive session" that included an opportunity for Montie Deer to address the National Council with his voluminous amount of papers and extreme length of time to plead for mercy. His pleading took so long that a council member that expressed no confidence vacated the premises allowing the subsequent vote to result in a 12 to 12 tie. A 12 yes votes for his removal and 12 no votes. This resulted in allowing the National Council Speaker to cast the tie breaking vote to result in 13 no votes to remove and 12 yes votes. Obviously since the Speaker, due to his neutral position duties, was not allowed to participate in the "discussion" phase of the motion and based on his manner when voting, Montie Deer's survival rest on the breaking vote, certainly no on the vote of confidence. Therefore, the no confidence issue remains. This expands the "no confidence", because now his capabilities will be further questioned by other tribal of-

ficials and employees.

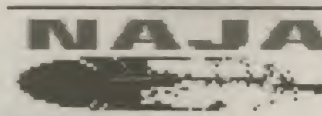
Since Chief Ellis was elected to his position by an overwhelming decision of the tribal voters in the primary elections with no need for a runoff, the Creek citizenry clearly expressed their confidence in Chief Ellis. This should reflect their support in his decision of whom to select and not to retain in his Executive Office which includes Office of the Attorney General. Montie Deer with his now weak position and no foundation for a justifiable refusal, should leave.

The very office that should have been key to resolving issues has now become the center of weakness and strain in the Executive branch of the Tribal Government.

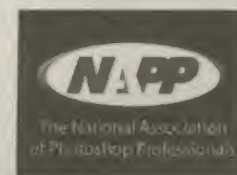
Allen Harjo, Tulsa

Muscogee Nation News

Members of the following two associations:



Native American Journalist Association



The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

LUCAS TAYLOR
Managing Editor

DENISE JACOBS
Editorial Assistant

GERALD WOFFORD
Photography/Writer

JENNIFER TARYOLE
Staff Writer

CARLA BROWN
Graphic Designer

JOSHUA SLANE
Reporter

WILMA MURPHY
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(918) 732-7637
wmurphy@muscogeenation-
nsn.gov

Office of the Principal Chief...

Greetings from the office of the Principal Chief. The holiday season is rapidly approaching and also the winter flu season. I hope our elders have protected themselves to preserve good health and protected the young one's also, because each day that we wake up is a good day.

Last night, November 9, 2004, an Extraordinary Council Meeting was called by this office and even though it appeared a Fiasco, one (1) Council Resolution in particular was addressed. A resolution declaring no confidence in Attorney General, **Montie Deer**.

On October 6, 2004, the Chief and Second Chief asked for the Attorney General's resignation due to no confidence. He refused and elected to



fight the request. The vote in the Council meeting last night was as follows: For Chief and Second Chief: **Roger Barnett, Richard Berryhill, Billy Chalakee, Sandra Golden, Robert Hufft, Robert Jones, Sandra Parish, George Tiger, Nancy Watson, Rita Williams, Lena Wind, and Shirlene Ade.**

Those supporting the Attorney General, **Montie Deer** were as follows: **Jesse Kelley, Duke Harjo, Keeper Johnson, Sue Johnson, David Nichols, Tony Nataro, Tom Pickering, Cherrah Quiet, Larry Bible, Lola Fields, Barbara Gillespie, and Tom McIntosh.** **Ron Cleghorn** left the meeting and did not vote.

This has not and will not affect anything in our dedication and desire to move this Nation forward. **Second Chief Berryhill** and I represent the Creek people as Tribal Leaders at the request of the people who voted to support us.

A big *Myto* to all California Creeks who welcomed the Tribal Leaders to Los Angeles last week. You will always be an important part of the Nation even though you are many miles away. Thanks to **Eli, Sandra, Ken, Wanda** and all those I failed to

mention.

Today, November 10th is Veteran's Day at the Mound building. Thanks to **Ken Davis**, our Veteran's Affairs Officer for all the good work. I promised the people a Veteran's Office and you have it.

I also promised a Tribal Bus System and next year you will have it, thanks to **Mr. Ben Chaney's** organizational abilities. Buses will travel our Nation from border to border. The new Coweta Clinic is under construction. The Industrial Park will begin construction in December 2004. The new Tulsa Casino and Hotel will break ground in February 2005. Plans are under way for the new All Purpose Building at the Omniplex. This will consist of a basketball gym, a fitness center and much more.

A new Head Start building will begin construction next spring at the Tribal Complex. The Tribal College is now in operation at OSU Okmulgee. Many new and exciting things are happening this first year of this administration. **Together**, we can accomplish anything. *Myto*.

Quote of the month: *Education is not preparation for life – Education is life itself.*

Mvskoke History Series: Reintroduction of the Horse By Patrick E. Moore

The horse evolved in the Americas millions of years ago and existed in North America during the Pleistocene Era along side the mastodon and early Native Americans. Archeologists know the horse was still roaming what is now the United States fourteen thousand years ago.

The horse migrated along the coast to Asia during the Ice Age when sea levels fell four hundred feet and found a new home on the vast grasslands of central Asia. Horses subsequently spread into the middle east, Europe and North Africa.

The extinction of the horse in the Americas occurred sometime during or shortly after the Pleistocene Era and the horse was absent from the American scene until five hundred years ago.

Then came the European explorer, who brought Arabic and Moorish horses to North America in the late 1400's and early 1500's. The horse re arrived in this hemisphere on the Mexican coast and Florida panhandle. Despite efforts by Spanish explorers to keep their horses out of Native American hands the resourceful First Americans acquired horses by hook or crook and quickly learned the fine art of horsemanship.

The horse upon returning to its ancient homeland

thrived on the vast grazing lands of this continent. Spanish herds grew large and many horses escaped, some with Native American help, to form wild herds available for anyone to capture.

The horse finally reached the far northern plains and Dakotas by the early 1700's, the gun arrived shortly thereafter providing an entirely new cultural experience for Native Americans.

The horse allowed the Native American to pursue buffalo year round instead of waiting for the seasonal heard migrations. This dramatically increased the harvest of meat and buffalo hides needed for trade with the European.

Horses also allowed Native Americans their first chance to resist the encroachment of other Native Americans and foreigners through increased mobility. Native American horseman could strike deep into enemy territory hitting vulnerable targets and escape to places unknown to the enemy. The horse provided a quick and easy method of escape from invading armies and allowed the Native American village to be very remote and difficult to find.

Native Americans became the best horsemen in history using the horse for hunting and war not herding. They



borrowed some technology from the Arabs and Spanish and invented the rest on their own.

Colonists had not been exposed to swift horses used in battle, since that activity was the privilege of the aristocrats in Europe. The colonial farmer used large slow draft horses to pull plows or wagons and the colonists was not very adept at horseback riding a distinct disadvantage when faced in combat with a well armed Native American on horseback.

By the late 1700's settlers and soldiers venturing on to the plains very quickly learned of superiority of the Native American's mount. The U.S. Cavalry never became as skilled or quick on horseback as the Native American and consequently was never very successful in battle.

The Appaloosa, with its blotched white spotted hindquarter and striped hooves became the best known of the so-called Indian ponies of the American west. These Appaloosa horses and their riders were so far superior to the U.S. Cavalryman and his horse that it finally took the Iron Horse (steam engine train) to keep up with the Appaloosa in the field. The train was used to transport Army horses miles out in front of the action so the U.S. Cavalry could double back and have a chance to encounter the Appaloosa and rider. This Native American bred and developed horse so thoroughly out performed and embarrassed the U.S. Cavalry the commanding General declared the Appaloosa breed be exterminated because of its superiority to the Army horse, which is but another example of the intelligence level of the Army command in the late 1800's.

Education

Armstrong completes state board cosmetology test

OKLAHOMA CITY— Sheila Armstrong passed the state board of cosmetology test on Sept. 27, which qualifies her for the state license in cosmetology.

She is the mother of two son's Taylor age 12 and Joseph age 6.

Sheila is the daughter of Patsy Fish and the granddaughter of Waitie and Emma Fish.

Howell selected to represent job corp

TAHLEQUAH — Beatrice Minnie Howell was selected to be princess and represent Talking Leaves Job Corp Native Voices Club.

She graduated from Glenpool High School in 2001. Beatrice is from the Beaver clan and belongs to the creek tribe and a member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Beatrice is currently working on her legal secretary and medical office trades. She plans to represent and educate schools and business about Native Voice. After the completion of job corp she plans to attend NSU and major in prelaw.

Beatrice is the daughter of Brenda Howell and the late Jody Howell of Glenpool.

Maternal grandparents are Beatrice Deere and the late Rev. Jackson Deere of Glenpool.

Paternal grandparents are the late Jess and Louise Howell of Tulsa.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program to provide 1,000 scholarships to minority students

FAIRFAX, VA— GMS aspires to nurture the talent of Scholar-Leaders by reducing financial barriers to higher education for high-talent, low-income African American, American Indian/ Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students, preparing them to make significant contributions in a dynamic and evolving global community.

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) program announced the launch of the 2005-2006 academic year nomination process. Eligible minority students who will be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman in the fall of 2005 can be nominated. They must also be citizens of legal permanent residents/ Nationals of the United States, meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria, have at least a 3.3 GPA (on a 4.0 scale), and have demonstrated leadership through community service or other extracurricular activities.

The nomination process consists of three interdependent components: A Nominee Personal Information Form to be completed by the applicant, Nominator Form to be com-

pleted by an educator who is familiar with the applicant's academic ability and a Recommended Form to be completed by an individual who is familiar with the student's community service and leadership activities.

All three forms can be accessed, completed and submitted electronically at www.gmsp.org. Forms must be submitted on-line by the deadline of January 14, 2005, 12:00 midnight EST, or postmarked by January 14, 2005.

To date, more than 8,000 African-American, American Indian/ Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American and Hispanic American students have received the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Gates Millennium Scholars are from all 50 states and five outlying areas, and have attended over 932 colleges and universities across the United States. For more information, log on to www.gmsp.org or call 1(866) 884-7007.

The American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to enhanced the cultural and economic well being of American Indians and Alaska Natives through graduate education grants and services. AIGC has awarded more than 10,000 fellowships to American Indian and Alaska Native graduate and professional students to pursue graduate degrees in all fields. In 2000, AIGC Scholars was created to manage the Native American component of the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program in partnership with the United Negro College Fund, which administers the Gates Program nationwide. For additional information about AIGCS, visit its website: www.aigc.com

Births

Arianna Maelyn Osborne

OKEMAH — Arianna Maelyn Osborne was born May 26 to G.W. and Shelley Osborne.

She weighed 9 lbs. and was 19.4 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents Simmer and Sharon Hicks of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are Marilyn Stanfill of Scranton, AK and the late Jerry Stanfill.

Maternal great grandparents are Thomas & Ethleen Harjo of Oklahoma City and the late Joe & Lorene Hicks and the late Richard & Lillie Harjo.

Paternal great grandparents are Bill O'Quinn & Mary O'Quinn & Jessie Alexander.

She is a member of the Wind Clan and the Okfuskee Ceremonial Ground.

Birthday

Citizen enjoys 93rd birthday with family

OKMULGEE — Thomas E. Moore recently celebrated his 93rd Birthday at home with his wife of 67 years, Audis. Others included younger brothers, Edwin S. Moore, Colonel (ret.) of Muskogee and Lawrence R. Moore of the Hart Ranch, a nephew John R. Moore of Tulsa and youngest son Michael

Moore, Major (ret.) of Seattle. All enjoyed the talk of times and characters around Okmulgee that have long past into history. Thomas has the record of longest sitting Municipal Judge in the City of Okmulgee history for his twenty-two years total service.

Thomas E. Moore also served in the 1940's as a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council and he was a charter member of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes.

He is a U.S. Army combat veteran of World War II and served in the Field Artillery as a staff sergeant in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

Moore is also the father of Pat Moore the current District Judge of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Boy celebrates his tenth birthday

OKEMAH — Bradley Hicks celebrated his tenth birthday on Aug. 9 at his home with friends and family.

Hicks is the son of Carrie Jacobs and Jeremiah Hicks.

Maternal grandparents are Patsy and Frank Jacobs.

Paternal grandparents are Jim and Jean Hicks.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Pauline Crawford and Jose Rameriz and Betty and the late Sam Jacobs.

Paternal great grandparents are Sissy Lewis and the late Jonas Artussee and Houston and Eliza Hicks.

Bradley has one sister, Alisha and one brother, Brock.

Society

Rangel nominated as OU homecoming royalty

SAPULPA — Anna Rangel a senior at the University of Oklahoma, was recently nominated by the Union Programming Board to be an OU homecoming candidate. The Board, of which she is president, is responsible for planning large-scale events for the campus community.

After being nominated, she was interviewed and then selected to be on the homecoming royalty court. "I am really, really excited about it," she said. "I think it will be a lot of fun."

As part of homecoming royalty, Rangel will make appearances at all the festivities leading up to the big day, including the homecoming parade.

Rangel said she will participate in an informal campaign. "I am excited to be an actual part of everything that surrounds homecoming," she said.

The homecoming queen will be announced just before the game. The OU student body will vote to elect one of five women and one of five men to be homecoming queen and king. She said to be selected for the court, students must be active in campus activities, have high grade point averages and be involved in community service.

"It's really just an honor," She said. "I can't believe that I'm in the same category with people I really respect."



Howell



Hicks



Osborne

Muscogee Division of Health Administration

Talk tradition with the Tobacco Prevention Program

OKMULGEE — Let's Talk Tradition! We as Muscogee (Creek) People are born into tradition with pride and respect. Tobacco is a blessing from the Creator. Traditionally it is used in ceremonies and for healing. Use it the right way and it heals you, use it the wrong way and it kills you.

American Indian and Alaskan Natives have the highest smoking rates of all ethnic populations in the United States. Nearly 40% of adults and 50% of youth abuse commercial tobacco. The American Legacy Foundation states that one in every three smokers will die from a smoking related illness. We all know of people who have lost their lives due to the abuse of commercial tobacco. Due to our high rates of smoking we can expect to see more of our people, young and elderly, die from commercial tobacco related diseases.

According to new research; smoking a cigarette takes 11 minutes off of your life, one pack short-



ens your life by 3 hours and 40 minutes and a 20 a day regular smoker is losing one day of life for every week of smoking. If that is not bad enough, smokers are likely to die a more painful death and spend most of their lives being ill.

The Great Muscogee (Creek) Nation Smoke Out provides an opportunity for those who want to stop smoking to take their first step by pledging to give up their cigarettes for 24 hours. Giving up your cigarettes will be a great benefit not only for you but for your family and friends as well. Freeing your lungs from the trap of addiction and clearing the air for those around you to breathe easy. Here is your chance to begin a healthy life-style, free from the nicotine addiction and the influence of commercial tobacco manufacturers.

Join us on November 18, 2004 to celebrate life today, tomorrow, and forever at one of our health facilities nearest you: Okmulgee Indian Health Center, Okemah Hospital & Center, Sapulpa Health Center, and the Eufaula Health Center.

We will also be set up at the OSU County fairgrounds in Okmulgee. For further information or if you would like to pledge to be smoke free, please contact the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program at 918-756-6231. Help keep tobacco traditional!

November National Family Caregiver Month

OKMULGEE — On November 18th, the Creek Nation Division of Health, Caregiver Program, Diabetes Program, Behavioral Health, Community Health Representatives and Tobacco Prevention Program will be recognizing and celebrating the great efforts of our family caregivers. Our theme is: SHARE THE CARING; WELLNESS IN FULL BLOOM. The Creek Nation Division of Health is sharing the care for our family caregivers and their recipients by offering quality programs and services to promote healthy families and communities.

Family caregivers are non-paid, family, friends, and neighbors who provide care and support to individuals who cannot manage independently without assistance because of illness or frailty. Many times, family caregivers will neglect their own needs to care for someone else. It is for these important people in our lives that we are celebrating and recognizing their wonderful contributions. Please join us in this celebration!! OSU County Fair Barn, Okmulgee, Thursday November 18, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MCN Contract Health Services

OKMULGEE — Contract Health Service (CHS) is a federally funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from Creek Nation Clinics or Creek Nation Com-

munity Hospital. Assistance depends on eligibility, residence, medical priorities, alternate resources, and availability of funding.

The Creek Nation CHS program also contracts with Specialty Care Physicians, hospital, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged fees.

The Contract Health Service Program is funded yearly with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Not all referrals for specialty care can be paid for by Creek Nation Contract Health Services. Because the funding we receive cannot accommodate every need of every patient, medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.

Contract Health Services receives funds

OKMULGEE—The MCN National Council and Federal Grant money has been received for the Tribal and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Vision Program. The CSBG Vision Program is intended for American Indians/ Alaska Natives ages 50 and over. This program has income guideline restrictions and applicant must reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

The Tribal Vision Program is for eligible Creek Citizens and is not based on income restrictions and must be an Oklahoma resident. For more information or to request application call Flora Jackson at 918-758-2710, ext. 225.

Doctor's Note

Dr. Lawrence Vark, CMO

Flu season is upon us, and as many people have heard, there has been a shortage of flu vaccine nationwide. Here are some general guidelines for this year.

Who should get a flu shot? The flu shot should be given to protect people who are most likely to have serious health problems if they get the flu. These people should get the flu shot: children six months to 23 months old; people 65 years of age or older; people two years old or older with an underlying, long-term illness (heart or lung disease, metabolic disease [diabetes], kidney disease, blood disorder, or weakened immune system, including people with HIV/AIDS; women who will be pregnant this season; those living in nursing homes or other chronic care places; those who are six months to 18 years of age and take aspirin daily; health care workers who take care of patients; and people who have or take care of a baby under six months old.

Who should not get a flu shot? Babies under 6 months old should not get a flu shot.

How to stop the spread of flu?

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze – throw the tissue away after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay away as much as you can from people who are sick.
- If you get the flu, stay home from work or school. If you are sick, do not go near other people so that you don't make them sick too.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.

Many patients who have very serious problems with the flu do so because they get pneumonia. High risk patients should be sure that they have a current pneumonia vaccine. Please ask at your Muscogee (Creek) Nation clinic about the pneumonia vaccine.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a limited supply of flu vaccine this year. We are going to vaccinate the high risk patients defined above. If there is vaccine remaining after treating our highest risk patients, we will make the vaccine available to the general patient population.

Housing Authority offers help in times of need

by Joshua Slane

OKMULGEE — Sometimes things happen beyond our control and it's nice to have people you can depend on for help. Often times families and/or friends come through with flying colors, but sometimes they're unable to help, perhaps they live far away, or they're injured, or perhaps the problem that has come up needs professional assistance. Force Account can provide, in many cases, that assistance.

Force Account is a Division of Housing Authority of the Creek Nation that does minor repairs, sewer, and heating and air conditioning work. They do this work for mutual help, lease option, NAHASDA, and even private homes, if you are eligible, on the rehab list, and its an emergency.

However, help can only be provided to those who are on the waiting list to have their homes rehabbed. To get on the list, contact Admissions at the Housing Authority at (918) 756-8504.

Once you're on the list, you're able to request Force Account's assistance during emergencies by contacting Christy Jamison at (918) 759-4113.

An emergency has to be defined by HACN policy, which includes all sewer, heating or air depending on the season, handicapped accessibility, as well as some structural or electrical problems. Turn around on these calls varies depending on environmental clearance, but it is usually between a day and two weeks.

If assistance is available, force account will come out to the residence and fix the problem free of charge. Their staff includes two licenced plumbers and a licenced heating and air technician, and five assistants.

The majority of the staff employed on the force account are Creek citizens. The staff is working towards being able to take their journeyman's test, which requires two years of work in a field. If they pass, they become journeymen. After another two years work, they can take a contractor's test and become contractors.

Force account completes approximately 15 requests a week and respond to virtually any type of emergency call. Even though an electrician is not on staff, if an electrical emergency arises and they do not have the people or equipment, they can contract it out at no cost to the individual.

Manager Brad Fox had this to say about his crew, "We don't turn anyone who is eligible away. If we can't take care of it we'll hire a contractor. We always try and help everyone in any way we can."

But this doesn't get the resident out of performing basic maintenance themselves. Anyone calling for assistance should be prepared to describe what they have done to try and fix the problem themselves.



Force Account staff member David Pascale works on a gas line.



Force Account Manager Brad Fox works on repairing water line.

Lighthouse Explorer Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Explorer Post 106 is looking for more Native American young adults, both male and female, between the ages of 14 and 20 years to join the post.

Meetings and training have been cut back due to school and sports, but they are still making plans for the year. Also, they request two weeks notice if you want Lighthouse Explorer Post at your event.

If you would like more information, contact Ben Watashe or Trillia Riley at the Lighthouse Police Department at (918) 732-7800.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services recently held a conference, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren."

According to Jackson Barnett, Senior Services Manager, this was a success. "Ten tribes and one tribal town represented attended the meeting," said Barnett. "Two tribes, Wyndotte and Quapaw came from Miami, Oklahoma. We all shared a good lunch afterwards."

For more information about the Senior Services Program, contact Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.

Cherokee basket making classes offered

MUSKOGEE — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum will be hosting a traditional Cherokee Honeysuckle Baskets Making classes on January 7, 8, and 9.

The cost is \$75 per person, with all materials included. Also included is a field trip to gather honeysuckle, as well as processing, dying, and making the basket in the traditional way to take home.

The class size is limited. For more information call (877) 587-4297.

Museum to hold invitational art show

MUSKOGEE — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum is holding an invitational art show throughout the months of November and December.

On Nov. 26 through the 28, a Native Holiday Market, where people can shop for artists of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole tribes, will be held.

In the month of December, a holiday print sale will be held. All prints will be sold with a 10% discount.

For more information call (877) 587-4297.

Eufaula Child Care Center recognized

EUFAULA — The Eufaula Muscogee Creek Nation Child Development Center has received a 2-Star rating by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Eufaula is the first Muscogee (Creek) Nation Childcare Center to achieve this rating.

The DHS started the Stars program to give parents and guardians a safe and easy way to ensure that the daycare center or home of their choice is following the DHS guidelines and taking care of their children to the best of their abilities.

Some qualifications for this rating include: each staff member must have at least 20 hours a year of mandatory DHS approved training, including the center supervisor who must have 40 hours a year; age appropriate curriculum; parent involvement; daily reports about each child's activities; stay in compliance with the DHS requirements, with no repeated or serious violations; must complete Self Program evaluations; and must employee certified teachers with an education of Child Development Associates Credential (CDA) or higher.

The Staff at the Eufaula center includes the following: Nancy Phillips, master teacher; Deborah Deere, lead teacher; Stella McIntosh, teacher aide; Courtney Camp, teacher aide; Jennifer Haase, teacher aide; Jennifer Ballard, teacher aide; Mariena Eslick, cook; and Shannon Grissom, center supervisor.

The center is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. All children are accepted, space available. No CDIB card is required.

For questions or comments call Shannon at (918) 618-4019.

DUI classes offered

DUSTIN — State Certified DUI classes for 10 hours and 24 hours are now available at 108 N. Broadway in Dustin and 107 McKinnley Ave. in Eufaula.

For more information call (888) 447-1608.

Communications to offer indoor senior portraits

OKMULGEE — The Communications Department is offering a high school senior indoor portrait package to tribal citizens beginning Dec. 15 at surrounding community

centers for groups of five or more.

The package will include the following: 2 - 8 x 10; 2 - 5 x 7's; 8 - 3 x 5's; 27 wallets; and one, eight proof picturefolio. Extras may be purchased at \$10 per sheet.

Prices range from \$50 to \$100 based on income. Digital announcements will be offered in increments of 8 for \$6.

For more information contact Mallory Bible or Wilma Murphy at (918) 732-7637.

Creek Veterans ceremony DVD to be made available

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department will produce a DVD from the recordings of the Veterans' Ceremony held on Nov. 10 at the Mound Auditorium.

DVD's can be ordered by contacting the Communications Department at (918) 732-7635.

Transit Authority Survey

Okmulgee — The June edition of the Muscogee Nation News contained an article pertaining to the establishment of an Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority. This is a great opportunity for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and it's citizens.

The survey is vital to this project and the information will enable the Transit Authority plan out a program that will provide for the greatest needs in all areas.

Forms are available at the Main Complex, Community Centers, and the Muscogee Nation News or on-line www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/tribalaffairs/transportationplanning.

Please fill out the survey form and return to: Ben Chaney, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Programs hold employee fun and fitness day to promote wellness and benefit project

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services and the Diabetes Prevention Program recently sponsored an "Employee Fun and Fitness Day" for tribal employees at the YMCA in Okmulgee. The event was held to promote employee wellness and to benefit the CFSA's Christmas Angel Tree Project.

Over 150 tribal employees participated in the activities at the YMCA facility. Activities included a fitness walk, volleyball games, and a healthy lunch. Twelve tribal programs also provided information regarding services and health related issues.

Thirty employees participated in the one mile fitness walk and eight teams, comprised of employees from various tribal departments, competed in the volleyball tournament. The Division of Housing defeated the Tax Commission/ Lighthouse Police in the finals to win first place. Other departments participating in the volleyball tournament included: Accounting, Child Care, CFSA, Facilities, Division of Health, Human Development, and Trade and Commerce.

Donations for food, drinks, and door prizes were re-

ceived from the following: MCN Business Enterprise, MCN Trade and Commerce, Creek Nation Travel Plaza - Okmulgee, Duck Creek Casino, Creek Nation Casino - Muskogee, Charlie's Chicken, Dairy Queen, Homeland - Henryetta, Massey's, Mazzio's Pizza - Okemah, Nelson's

Cafe, Sue's Little Peso, Wal-Mart, Warehouse Market, and David Smith. The Diabetes Prevention Program will also provide t-shirts to all employees participating in activities.

Funds raising during the event will be used for the annual Christmas Angel Tree Project sponsored by CFSA. The Christmas Angel Tree Project provides gifts for abused and neglected Muscogee (Creek) children in the cus-

tody of the tribe, as well as children and families involved with CFSA programs. CFSA and the Diabetes Prevention Program would like to express appreciation to the following: all departments and employees who participated in the activities; all entities who donated food, drinks, or door prizes; the YMCA; and Principal Chief A.D. Ellis for allowing employees to participate.



Volleyball champions, Housing Authority

October District Court filings

Marriage License:

- Dewayne Giabbs and Isela Lopez

Protective Orders:

- Ramona Poafpybitty v. Gary Poafpybitty
- Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
- Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
- Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
- Angelique Brady v. Bo Allen Judd
- Justin Bateman v. Bo Allen Judd

Criminal - Felonies:

- MCN v. Terrence Malone
- Poss of Illegal Drugs
- MCN v. David Michael McGirt
- Cts. 1-4 Embezzlement

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN v. Johnathan Stiger
- Public Intoxication
- MCN v. Aaron Dodd
- Public Intoxication
- MCN v. Terrance Malone
- Public Intoxication

Traffic:

- MCN v. Joshua Barnett
- Driving w/o Drivers License
- MCN v. Charles Sparks
- Operating Vehicle w/o Drivers License
- MCN v. Constance Dan
- Driving in Violation of Court Order
- MCN v. Jeremy Khoum
- Reckless Driving
- MCN v. Jeremiah Jones
- Driving w/o required registration
- MCN v. Michael J. Brown
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Randy Lee Ward
- Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

- Ramona Poafpybitty v. Gary Poafpybitty
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Melissa Gore v. Marty Gore
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Cheryl Meely v. Jeffery Meely
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Teresa Shatswell v. Coubis Shatswell, Jr.
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Twyla Paguin v. Sylvester Paquin
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Jessica Smith v. Freddy Smith
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Jeffery Ralston v. Beth Ralston
- Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

Civil/ Small Claims:

- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Virginia Jackson
- Small Claims
- MCN Consumers Loans v. Lisa Deere-Yargee aka Harjo
- Small Claims

- Michelle Yeahoquo v. Jason Dahm
- Petition to Establish Paternity
- Citifinancial v. Marta Starr
- Foreign Judgment
- Creditors Recovery Corp. v. Trina Watashe
- Foreign Judgment
- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Lorene Chavez
- Foreign Judgment
- Michael Provence v. Cassey Richards
- Petition for Custody
- Discover Bank v. Bonnie and Jeff Jones
- Foreign Judgment

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
OKLAHOMA
No. 101043 (District Court Case CJ-2004-2874)
Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, an
agency of the State of Oklahoma,

Plaintiff/Appellee,

vs.

- (1) Bank of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma,
- (2) First National Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee, Oklahoma,
- (3) First National Bank of Okmulgee, Okmulgee, Oklahoma,
- (4) Superior Bank, Eufaula, Oklahoma,
- (5) Okemah National Bank, Okemah, Oklahoma,
- (6) Peoples National Bank, Checotah, Oklahoma,
- (7) Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, and Indian tribe, Defendant/Appellant.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TULSA
COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Case No. CJ-2004-2874

Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, an
agency of the State of Oklahoma,
vs.

- (1) Bank Of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- (2) First National Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee, Oklahoma
- (3) First National Bank of Okmulgee, Okmulgee, Oklahoma
- (4) Superior Bank, Eufaula, Oklahoma
- (5) Okemah National Bank, Okemah,) Oklahoma
- (6) Peoples National Bank, Checotah, Oklahoma
- (7) Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, an Indian tribe

Volume 33, Issue 11, November 2004

Case No. AD-2004-06

In the District court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: In the Matter of Adoption of K D P

Notice By Publication

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Misty Dawn Postoak
and unknown father K.D.P. Address Unknown

MISTY DAWN POSTOAK, MOTHER of K.D.P. and UNKNOWN NATURAL FATHER OF K. D. P. TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for the Adopt on of said minor child has been fixed in the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma by Sue BumGarner, the maternal great-grandmother of said minor child. The Petition alleges that you are the parents of K.D.P., born August 9, 1996 and that you have not supported or visited said K.D.P. for a period of time in excess of one year. The Petition seeks to proceed with the Adoption without your consent due to this nonsupport and abandonment.

The Petition also seeks to waive the interlocutory order and the six-month waiting period. The Petition will be heard on the 31st day of January, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an Application for a hearing to determine that K.D.P. is eligible for adoption without your consent was filed at the same time as the petition. This would allow the adoption to continue without your approval and will result in the termination of your parental rights. This application will be heard on the 29th day of December, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Tahl-equah, Oklahoma.

THE HEARING on the application cannot be held less than twenty days from the time notice is provided to you. Further, you may have certain rights under tribal laws and the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act. These rights include the right to appear at all hearings at the right to a court-appointed attorney if the Court determines you are indigent. You also have the right to request an additional twenty day respond to this action. You may have other rights under Tribal and Federal law regarding this action.

You are therefore notified that the Court will hear evidence in this application on the date shown. You have a right to appear at this hearing and be heard as to your evidence. If you fail to appear at the hearing scheduled in this notice, the Court may find the constitutes a denial of your interest in said minor child. The denial will lead, without further notice to you, of the child's adoption. This would terminate your parental rights to the above named child.

/s/ Josie C. Stanley, OBA # 19063; MCN #185
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.
4200 Perimeter Center, Suite 222
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 943-6457
Attorney for Petitioner

Last words: American Indian languages are loosing speakers fast

By Judy Gibbs Robinson
The Oklahoman

NORMAN—An elderly woman with shaking hands dropped a candle representing the Chiricahua Apache language during a recent ceremony to celebrate Oklahoma's Indian languages. The candle fell to the floor and went out. Although it quickly was relighted, the moment during the seventh annual Celebration of Indian Language and Culture was symbolic of the status of native languages in Oklahoma at the end of 2004. Twenty-five native languages still are spoken here, but 10 are just one generation from extinction. And that generation is growing old. "We are at the greatest period of American Indian language extinction in history," said Dennis W. Zotigh, American Indian research historian at the Oklahoma Historical Society. In September, two or three native speakers of Caddo died, said Alice Anderton, a linguist who directs the intertribal Wordpath Society, sponsor of the Oct. 22 celebration. "Time is really running out for some languages," she said. Although Oklahoma has 21,359 native speakers, 10 tribes have 10 or fewer fluent speakers left, and 15 have fewer than 100, according to Anderton's 2004 count, released in October.

"Every time we revise it, the numbers go down and not up," Anderton said. The decline is not for want of effort, but the effort may be too little, too late for most tribes, experts say. It's been 14 years since Congress passed the Native American Languages Act, which made it federal policy to preserve, protect and promote native languages—reversing the decades-old policy of trying to stamp them out.

In that time, many tribes have initiated language classes. For example, Choctaw is offered in public high schools throughout the Choctaw Nation, at community centers or via the Internet. Comanche is taught at the Comanche Nation College in Lawton. University of Oklahoma students can study Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek and Kiowa. At Oklahoma State University, students can learn Muscogee.

"That's all progress," Anderton said. "But if you look at it in a real hard-nosed way, if you ask how many new speakers of native languages there are, as far as I know that number is zero." The problem is that high school and college classes will not produce fluent speakers, Zotigh said. The only hope for languages to survive is to get young children speaking them, Zotigh and Anderton said.

With that in mind, some tribes, including the Choctaws, have language instruction in their Head Start programs. But Anderton said the 15 minutes a day they can devote to the subject is nearly worthless.

"They can teach hot to count or to name animals. That's important culturally, but it doesn't save a language, unfortunately," Anderton said.

In Oklahoma, only the Cherokee language, with 9,000 native speakers, has much real chance of surviving because of its language immersion preschool for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds, Zotigh said.

Thirty-four children are enrolled in the program, which gives them eight hours of instruction a day in Cherokee. Are they fluent?

"Yes, ma'am," said Gloria Sly, director of the Cherokee Nation's Cultural Resources Center. "They fuss back and forth in Cherokee. They tell and tattle in Cherokee. They do all the little things 3- and 4-year-olds do."

Cherokee language teachers developed an assessment tool to measure the child's annual progress. It worked well for the first two years, Sly said.

"This past year, they blew the top off of it. We had to do a revision" because the children already knew far more Cherokee than the test was designed to measure, she said.

Until now, the Cherokees had no fluent speakers under age 45, Zotigh said.

"This is a very good success story," he said.

Other tribes may have trouble following the Cherokee Nation's model, Anderson said.

"The logistics can be daunting. And in many tribes, the elders are so old and feeble, they don't really belong in a preschool because they can't get down on the floor with the children," Anderton said.

Tribe's envoy to U.N urges selfless action

by Judy Gibbs Robinson
The Oklahoman

The Muscogee Creek Nation's ambassador to the United Nations has no special training in international diplomacy and no long career in foreign service. Geri Wisner-Foley was just out of the university of Tulsa Law School last year when she urged her tribe to send a representative to the international tribunal. The Creeks became the first American Indian tribe with a U.N. ambassador when they sent her to New York last summer.

"It is work that is necessary, and it is work that I encourage many other tribes to send representatives to do," Wisner-Foley said Monday at Oklahoma's official Native American Heritage Celebration in the state Capitol rotunda. She was keynote speaker at the event, which included Indian drumming, dancing and singing. Honors also were bestowed on two women and a family for special contributions to the state in the past year. Cinda Hughes, a Kiowa, and Regina Riley, who is white, received recognition awards. Hughes just finished her tenure as Ms. Wheelchair America and Ms. Wheelchair Oklahoma. Riley helped Davenport Schools in Lincoln County build a running and jogging track to help Indian students lose weight and keep fit. The spirit of Oklahoma Award went to cousins Joe Dent of Red Rock and Joan Aitson of Edmond for donating to the Oklahoma Historical Society a document signed by explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1804.

Dent and Aitson are descendants of the Otoe warrior Big Ax, who encountered the explorers along the Missouri River in 1804. His family kept the pledge of friendship and passed it down from generation to generation. Appraisers estimated it would fetch \$1.3 million if sold at auction. "We never would have sold it to begin with. It's not selling material," Aitson said. "It's

not something you sell and send off to someone else to sell." In her keynote, Wisner-Foley urged just that kind of selflessness.

"Maybe some of the words I share with you today will inspire you to do something to help your people, to lift your family and all Indian people so we can be stronger than before," she said.

She became a diplomat after attending a U.N. conference for indigenous peoples in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2003 as a visiting law student.

Not a single American Indian tribe was represented at the meeting, although she did find two Indian men from Canada who urged her to get involved.

"That conversation set fire in my stomach. It put energy in my feet because of all these hundreds and thousands of indigenous peoples from all over the globe, there wasn't one Native American indigenous representative at the United Nations where they're talking about treaties, about land rights, about raising our children in our culture and our traditions," she said.

When Wisner-Foley first arrived in New York, she had to make her own way. "I found an empty seat and I claimed it. I said, 'This is the seat of the Muscogee Creek Nation.'"

Sen. John Kerry: Many law enforcement agencies in Indian Country are under staffed and under funded. As President, I will support increased funding to law enforcement on Indian land to address high crime rates by providing more resources for officer hiring and retention, and drug control and youth crime prevention. As President, I also will seek increased funding for tribal courts. I will work to improve services to American Indian victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Education

President George Bush: The Department of Education's Office of Indian Education is working to implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 within the Native American community. Indian tribes, schools, and local education agencies that serve American Indian and Native Alaska children will have access to nearly \$122 million in grants to improve education opportunities. The Department of the Interior's 2004 program includes over \$49 million for American's tribal colleges and universities. This investment will help American Indian Students reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

Sen. John Kerry: The BIA school system is only one of two federally operated school systems. With an estimated over \$2 billion backlog for school repairs in these BIA schools, I support repairing and building new schools for this country's American Indian Children. I also support increased funding for tribal colleges and I have written to President Bush, opposing his efforts to limit set-asides for tribal colleges.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community hosts 18th Annual Council Oak Tree Ceremony

by Ruth Bible

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community hosted the 18th Annual Council Oak Tree ceremony at 18th and Cheyenne on November 6.

Miss Muscogee Victoria Mills was the Mistress of Ceremony. Second Chief Alfred L. Berryhill had the honor of lighting the fire. Reverend Harry Long of Salt Creek Methodist gave the invocation and led a Muscogee Hymn.

Cherrah Ridge-Quiett, Tulsa District Representative, introduced the Muscogee Nation Royalty: Little Miss I Angel Johnson, Little Miss II Cassandra Cole, Junior Miss Alyssa Bear, Miss Muscogee Victoria Mills and Senior Miss Fannie Barnett. Eunice Hill of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground introduced the ten of sixteen grounds that were represented by their Mekko, Poktv, Heneha, Tvstvnvke or ground designee.

Loca'Pokv descendent Robert Trepp, gave a brief history of the original town. "They are the leaders of the oldest political institutions in North America," said Trepp. "A great history we should share with everyone."

According to Trepp, during the removal, six hundred people started out on the trail of tears there, and only four hundred of our ancestors survived. They settled in the hills of this area, like every other ceremonial ground they brought the living embers of their sacred fire with them along that journey. Once here, they fasted, prayed, and selected this spot to be their Ceremonial ground. This became the first church, as well as the first political institution in what is now called Tulsa. This tree marked the special spot of which was the ceremonial ground until just after statehood. Because of the growth of Tulsa and the things that happened during that time period, the ceremonial ground was closed and the embers of that fire were taken to our closest relative, a sister ground near Spaulding, called Cedar River New Tulsa. We are closely related to Old Tvlse near Eufaula, Hickory Ground, Tulmochussee and Okfuskee. We are especially proud of our grounds that are able to endure and carry on the ceremonies and traditions.

Second Chief Berryhill gave a history of our Mekkos. "They hold a vast knowledge of our tradi-

tions," said Berryhill. "Some things aren't allowed to be spoken of. They are very sacred to our people." He talked about at the Tribal complex, our mound building's structure. According to Berryhill, it's like a burial mound not a temple mound. Upon entering the mound from the west entrance you will see a design inlaid on the floor, a round circle with four quadrants; red, yellow, black and white. These are the four types of fire that constitute our fires.

"I've often thought, the Olympics honor the Olympians with an eternal flame," said Berryhill. "We as Muscogee Creek should have a eternal flame of our own at tribal headquarters. The fire is to represent our people. A fire is what held our people together. Everyone participated from each ground they used to come to the main town they would take a part of that fire and go back to start their own fire. That is where the fires began, everybody became of one fire. We are one, we are one body. That's who we are, Este Cate."

The tradition was among the Mekkos that ran the tribe before the constitution took effect. You had to prove what ground we came from. It was important then and still just as important today.

"Who is to say in the future that someone came up to you and ask what makes you so unique," said Berryhill. "You go to the same school I do, you dress the same as I do, you eat the same food as I do, what makes you different from us? These Mekkos make us different. The grounds what they represent make us different, ceremonial grounds make us different, our religion, our first beliefs, our answers. I am a deacon. I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe these men came to this sacred tree. They had all the knowledge of our ancestors."

Berryhill mentioned a book he was once given. In it was an interview in 1938. One of our elders made the comment about our youth today don't know nothing, they know nothing about our history, our history, our past, our language. What is Okfvnkv? What is Hesaketvmese? The same statements echo today.

"A lot of traditions are being lost as our elders leave us," said Second Chief Berryhill. "I saw a big billboard that said, tradition, pass it on."

Berryhill also shared a childhood story about when he and others we would try to dance outside the Sequoyah dorm. The boys advisor would make them stop dancing and tell them they were no longer Indians in the back woods. But when they went to the classroom, the teachers would tell them to keep their traditions alive. So, they would just go further into the woods and stomp dance.

"We sang songs, creek songs," said Berryhill. "I always think about a period of time when our ancestors who walked fifteen-hundred miles. They didn't have time to bury their loved ones, they would just drape a blanket over them. If Muscogee Creeks died off and in a couple of hundred years later an anthropologist tried to prove that there was Muscogee Creek in this area, he couldn't prove it. We need to keep trying to retain our tradition. I admire these men (Mekkos) and what they do a lot of times."

Eunice Hill of Nuyaka believes in supporting our ceremonial leaders. However, this support is sometimes lost. "I remember the late Russell Thompson, Mekko of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground, telling his groundspeople the president of the United States serves a four-year term. His people support him and protect him. They look out for and follow him everywhere. At times Russell didn't feel that from his people. He also wanted someone to step up and learn the old ways. He warned them that one day he would not be around to teach them and share with them the ways of our people."

A Mekko's term is for life. They hold the responsibility of taking care of and continuing the traditions. Helisaya also are a vital part of the grounds. They take care of the people. They have to be careful about the preparation and plants used.

"We need to support our Mekkos," said Hill. "They are the leaders of our people. They hold a great deal of responsibility for our people."

According to Hill, in the 1970's, Public Services of Oklahoma sent a crew to the Council Oak area to cut down every tree, including the sacred oak tree.

"I was one of the crew sent here," said Hill. "The crew included myself, the late Chapman Cloud, the late Tom Johnson, and the late George McNac. We were all Muscogee Creek and knew the history of this tree. We backed off and told our supervisors we are not cutting this tree and if you want to fire us, go ahead. The PSO supervisor got mad and asked us why we would not touch the tree. We told him to contact the City of Tulsa and the Mayor's office. They verified the landmark. We saved this tree. That was quite a while back and we never thought that this would continue year after year, but we are glad."

Hill encourages all Muscogee Creek to explore their history, their ancestors and to attend all cultural events and functions.



Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church to hold Ordination

by Gerald Wofford

Christ once said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Several interpretations have been made of this Biblical saying and if there are any true examples to it, it is that of a Deacon.

Selected by the elders of the church, a Deacon must be above reproach and signify a high moral example, not only of himself, but of his family and as a good ambassador of the Church as a whole.

Deacons are not always allowed to just sit down during the service, but are required to inform people that its time to meet for Church. This is accomplished sometimes by the ringing of the bell, the blowing of a horn, or just by the motion of hands.

A usual duty that is seen of deacons is to take up the offering. Most people think that this is the only task deacons do, which is far from the case.

Deacons will also perform room coordination. The traditional cane, which many deacons are seen with, allows them to instruct church goers on the proper area to sit while in Church. The cane is also a symbol of Church authority and the deacons are not afraid to use them in order to show that there will be order in the Church.

During a meeting at one Muscogee Church, a woman hastily entered the building and began talking loudly to another person. The deacon of the Church, realizing that the lady was seated in a location that was reserved and was speaking too loud, kindly asked her to move. The lady did not want to acknowledge his authority and kept proceeding. The second time, the Deacon lifted his cane on the woman's shoulder and looked straight at her. The woman and all those around her suddenly got silent. The woman kindly obliged to the Deacon's request.

A person chosen for the office of Deacon is not lightly regarded, but has proven himself to the pastor, other Deacons, and elders of the Church as being a good candidate for such a responsibility.

The selection process doesn't stop there, but will also include a training period. The training period may take up to a year, perhaps longer if necessary.

If the trainee should pass this period to the satis-

faction of the Church leaders, he will be informed of meeting the requirements of the Church and is qualified for ordination.

On Saturday evening, November 20, Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church will ordain Walter Taylor, Jr. a member of the congregation who the Church has watched for at least a year.

"When the Church informed me of my ordination, I took it as an honor because God chose a sinner like me to fulfill his works," said Taylor.

Taylor has met all the stipulations and performed required duties during the training period. Saturday evening, Taylor will be questioned by two ministers from other Churches, as well as his wife, Melinda.

"There was no way I could have made it through this without my wife by my side," said Taylor. "The way I look at it, we are both being ordained. When you become married, in God's eyes you are one. I put her through a lot of heartache and pain when I was in the world. Through all this, she stood by me. I thank the Lord for her and I love her!"

Deacons are not just required to help lead the Church, but be leaders of their homes as well.

After Taylor is questioned and meets the ministers approval, he is then presented in front of the

congregation. Melinda will also be brought up and they are both given the right hand of fellowship by happy and encouraging church members.

The church's only deacon, before Saturday, is Wallace Gambler, who also has been given the authority to exhort by the church. Deacons are only allowed to preach, or exhort, to the congregation with the permission of the Pastor. The Pastor of the Church is the Reverend Mitchell Taylor.

After the ordination service, Taylor will also be given something else besides the right hand of fellowship, his Deacon's cane, symbolizing not only his authority in the Church, but his service to all people in it.

"I like to thank all my brothers and sisters in Christ for their support and help," said Taylor. "I especially like to thank Wallace for his teachings and support along the way. God always surrounds you with good people."



Opportunity of possible sale awakens response from Tulsa Church

TULSA — After 10 wonderful years of existence, All Tribes Community Church finds itself in transition as a local organization has offered to purchase the church building. This potential sale has filled the church with excitement and anticipation to make a needed change and move. Therefore, another Tulsa organization may continue its valuable services to the people and children of the area.

The church informs the community that the church will remain open and are continuing to have church services and related activities at its present location at 2501 East Archer Street. The annual Christmas Play, "Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime", is scheduled December 10th and 11th and will be presented at the current location.

The church invites all to come and hear Pastor, Rev. Tom Moore, at their 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon services.

For further information, contact All Tribes Community Church at P.O. Box 9764, Tulsa, OK, 74157-0764 or (918) 832-1891 or e-mail the church at alltribesabc@swbell.net. The church's new location will be announced soon!

Church Events

Church Celebration

HANNA — Hillabee Indian Baptist Church will be celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, December 11 at 7 p.m.

The speaker will be B.B. Harjo. Chili and stew will be served after services.

Annual Christmas Play

TULSA — All Tribes Community Church will be having their annual Christmas Play, "Twas In The Moon of Wintertime", on December 10th and 11th.

The church is located at 2501 East Archer Street.

If you would like more information contact, All Tribes Community Church at 918-832-1891 or e-mail at alltribesabc@swbell.net.

Trenton Baptist Church building closed temporarily

HANNA — Trenton Baptist Church building is closed for repairs but members are still holding church services at the Hanna Indian Community Center. The center is located 3 ½ miles east of Hanna.

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the June 26, regular session.

June 26, Regular session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; Thomas McIntosh, McIntosh District; Rita Williams, Okmulgee District; Thomas Yahola, Tukvpytce District.

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpytce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-060, authorizing the speaker to execute a special services attorney agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, L.L.P.

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek District; **Barnett**, Creek District; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Notaro**, McIntosh District; **Parish**, Muskogee District; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee District; **Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Wind**, Okfuskee District; **Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Jones**, Okmulgee District; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **Williams**, Okmulgee District; **Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Ade**, Tukvpytce District; **Fields**, Tukvpytce District; **Bible**, Tulsa District; **Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Hufft**, Tulsa District; **Kelley**, Tulsa District; **Berryhill**, Wagoner District; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner District;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-066, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a lease of 10 acres for 25 years to Arbeka Tulledega Ceremonial Grounds;

- approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-067, approving the selection of contractors for the rehabilitation of one (1) privately owned home, six (6) mutual help homes and one (1) vacant mutual help home;

- approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-068, confirming the nomination of **Jackson Lee Barnett** as the senior service department manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved (19-2-0) TR 04-069, confirming the nomination of **Eugenia Carol Soweka** to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board;

voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-070, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 289.78 acres of tribal trust property located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma (tract 50);

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-071, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 386.6 acres of tribal trust property located in Hughes county, Oklahoma (tract #19);

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-072, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 80 acres of tribal trust property located in Hughes county, Oklahoma (tract #23);

- approve unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-073, au-

thorizing the Principal Chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 137.75 acres of tribal trust property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma (tract # 20);

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-076, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with Holdenville Public School for the leasing of space on tribal trust land to benefit the Holdenville Creek Indian Community;

- approved unanimously as amended (21-0-0) TR 04-084, the Gaming Operations Authority Board (G.O.A.B.) to enter into a purchase agreement with Comark Building Systems, Inc. for a modular building to house the administrative staff at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tulsa Casino which is located at 81st and Riverside;

- approved (17-4-0) TR 04-085, confirming the nomination of Elizabeth Morris-Gunn to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health system board of Directors;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) TR 04-086, refrain from encroachment upon other Five Civilized Tribes jurisdiction except by Mutual agreement;

representative **Pickering** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (19-1-0) TR 04-087, authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate a contract for the purchase of land in Seminole County, Oklahoma;

voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvpytce;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-089, amending MCNCA Title 36, §3-102, entitled "definitions" and §3-104, B., entitled "original, transfer and duplicate titles";

- approved unanimously to return to committee (21-0-0) NCA 04-099, authorizing an appropriation to the tribal college project (American Indian University) for technical assistance in planning/development;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-109, authorizing the Human Development division, department of Higher Education to expend funds received through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foundation from the Native American Fund Advisor;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-111, amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Title 21, "Gaming," Chapter 2, "Public Gaming Commissioner," as amended by NCA-04-035, to amend the qualifications for the office of public gaming commissioner;

- approved as amended (17-4-0) NCA 04-114, amending MCNCA Title 21, §4-102 entitled "Board Composition" to add a provision for stipends and mileage for gaming operation authority board members;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; and **Fields**, Tukvpytce;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-117, authorizing the expenditure of BIA "Aid to Tribal Govern-

ment" funds awarded to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Trust Services Department;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-116, amending NCA 04-062 (a law of the appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of mortgages and promissory notes associated with Fountainhead Resort located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma);

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-118, repealing NCA 03-201 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program and appropriating funds;

- approved unanimously to return to committee (21-0-0) NCA 04-119, approving a service line agreement on tribal trust land occupied by Duck Creek community, Okmulgee County with the East Central Electric company;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-121, authorizing the expenditure of a grant entitled "small rural hospital improvement" for Okemah Creek Nation Community Hospital;

- approved unanimously (21-0-0) NCA 04-122, authorizing a special appropriation to assist with expenses for Glenpool students and staff to attend and perform in Washington, D.C.;

representative **Barnett** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (20-0-0) NCA 04-125, authorizing a special appropriation to the Okmulgee Senior citizens to attend the grand opening of National Museum of the American Indians;

representative **Barnett** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (20-0-0) NCA 04-126, establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program for over-income families;

August 24, Special session

Absent were: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa; and **Kelley**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvpytce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved to postpone (15-7-0) TR 04-107, reassigning the authority for the administration of finance and accounting from the division of health administration to the Controller's office within the executive branch;

voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvpytce; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Golden** and **Fields** excused;

- approved unanimously (19-0-0) NCA 04-160, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to attend the Fall 2004 National Youth Leadership Forum on law in Washington, D.C.

October 11, Special session

Absent were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Jones**,

October District Court filings

Marriage License:

- Dewayne Giabbs and Isela Lopez

Protective Orders:

- Ramona Poafpybitty v. Gary Poafpybitty
- Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
- Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
- Angela Culley v. Bobby Marshall
- Angelique Brady v. Bo Allen Judd
- Justin Bateman v. Bo Allen Judd

Criminal - Felonies:

- MCN v. Terrence Malone

Poss of Illegal Drugs

- MCN v. David Michael McGirt

Cts. 1-4 Embezzlement

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN v. Johnathan Stiger

Public Intoxication

- MCN v. Aaron Dodd

Public Intoxication

- MCN v. Terrance Malone

Public Intoxication

Traffic:

- MCN v. Joshua Barnett

Driving w/o Drivers License

- MCN v. Charles Sparks

Operating Vehicle w/o Drivers License

- MCN v. Constance Dan

Driving in Violation of Court Order

- MCN v. Jeremy Khoun

Reckless Driving

- MCN v. Jeremiah Jones

Driving w/o required registration

- MCN v. Michael J. Brown

Disorderly Conduct

- MCN v. Randy Lee Ward

Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

- Ramona Poafpybitty v. Gary Poafpybitty

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

- Melissa Gore v. Marty Gore

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

- Cheryl Meely v. Jeffery Meely

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

- Teresa Shatswell v. Coubis Shatswell, Jr.

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

- Twyla Paquin v. Sylvester Paquin

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

- Jessica Smith v. Freddy Smith

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

Jeffery Ralston v. Beth Ralston

Petition for Dissolution of Marriage

Civil/ Small Claims:

- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Virginia Jackson

Small Claims

- MCN Consumers Loans v. Lisa Deere-Yargee aka

Harjo

Small Claims

- Michelle Yeahoquo v. Jason Dahm

Petition to Establish Paternity

- Citifinancial v. Marta Starr

Foreign Judgment

- Creditors Recovery Corp. v. Trina Watashe

Foreign Judgment

- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Lorene Chavez

Foreign Judgment

- Michael Provence v. Cassey Richards

Petition for Custody

- Discover Bank v. Bonnie and Jeff Jones

Foreign Judgment

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
OKLAHOMA

No. 101043 (District Court Case CJ-2004-2874)

Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, an
agency of the State of Oklahoma,

Plaintiff/Appellee,

vs.

(1) Bank of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma,

(2) First National Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee, Okla-
homa,(3) First National Bank of Okmulgee, Okmulgee, Okla-
homa,

(4) Superior Bank, Eufaula, Oklahoma,

(5) Okemah National Bank, Okemah, Oklahoma,

(6) Peoples National Bank, Checotah, Oklahoma,

(7) Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, and Indian
tribe, Defendant/Appellant.IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF TULSA
COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Case No. CJ-2004-2874

Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, an
agency of the State of Oklahoma,

vs.

(1) Bank Of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Oklahoma

(2) First National Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee, Okla-
homa(3) First National Bank of Okmulgee, Okmulgee, Okla-
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(4) Superior Bank, Eufaula, Oklahoma

(5) Okemah National Bank, Okemah,) Oklahoma

(6) Peoples National Bank, Checotah, Oklahoma

(7) Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, an Indian
tribe

Volume 33, Issue 11, November 2004

Case No. AD-2004-06

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: In the Matter of Adoption of K D P**Notice By Publication**Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Misty Dawn Postoak
and unknown father K.D.P. Address Unknown

MISTY DAWN POSTOAK, MOTHER of K.D.P. and UNKNOWN NATURAL FATHER OF K. D. P. TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for the Adopt on of said minor child has been fixed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma by Sue BumGarner, the maternal great-grandmother of said minor child. The Petition alleges that you are the parents of K.D.P., born August 9, 1996 and that you have not supported or visited said K.D.P. for a period of time in excess of one year. The Petition seeks to proceed with the Adoption without your consent due to this nonsupport and abandonment.

The Petition also seeks to waive the interlocutory order and the six-month waiting period. The Petition will be heard on the 31st day of January, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an Application for a hearing to determine that K.D.P. is eligible for adoption without your consent was filed at the same time as the petition. This would allow the adoption to continue without your approval and will result in the termination of your parental rights. This application will be heard on the 29th day of December, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

THE HEARING on the application cannot be held less than twenty days from the time notice is provided to you. Further, you may have certain rights under tribal laws and the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act. These rights include the right to appear at all hearings at the right to a court-appointed attorney if the Court determines you are indigent. You also have the right to request an additional twenty day respond to this action. You may have other rights under Tribal and Federal law regarding this action.

You are therefore notified that the Court will hear evidence in this application on the date shown. You have a right to appear at this hearing and be heard as to your evidence. If you fail to appear at the hearing scheduled in this notice, the Court may find the constitutes a denial of your interest in said minor child. The denial will lead, without further notice to you, of the child's adoption. This would terminate your parental rights to the above named child.

/s/ Josie C. Stanley, OBA # 19063; MCN #185
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.
4200 Perimeter Center, Suite 222
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 943-6457
Attorney for Petitioner

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center
 Chief Financial Officer
 Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee
 LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)
 Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention Program
 Billing Technician - Okmulgee
 Coding Specialist - CNCH
 Behavioral Health Clinician - BHS
 Pharmacist - Eufaula (Part time)
 CHR Generalist - Okmulgee
 Van Driver - Eufaula - ENP (Part time)
 Van Driver - Muskogee - ENP (Part time)
 Van Driver - Twin Hills - ENP (Part time)
 Van Driver - Weleetka - ENP (Part time)
 Medical Records Clerk - Sapulpa
 LPN - Eufaula
 Phlebotomist - CNCH
 Staff Dentist - Sapulpa
 Administrative Assistant - Sapulpa
 Dental Hygienist - Sapulpa / Eufaula
 CHR Generalist
 CEO - Creek Nation Health Care System

The Human Resources Department staff follows well-defined policies and procedures regarding the staffing process. Each position has a closing date that must be adhered to without exception. Some positions are more difficult to staff than others and are recruited as "Open Until Filled". The Personnel Department must receive applications for a minimum of 5 days before the first panel of qualified applicants is provided to the hiring official. Applications will be received until the position is staffed in these circumstances. The Division applies Tribal and Indian Preference in all hiring and employment decisions in accordance with Tribal Ordinance as established by

National Council Act 81-40. To receive preference an applicant must submit verification in the form of a CDIB (Certified Degree of Indian Blood) Card or Citizenship Card. For more information call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291.

For more information check on the web at www.muscogeehealth.org or call 756-3334.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Muskogee Document Imaging, and Farm Authority.

For more information on employment opportunities at Trade and Commerce please contact: Muskogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce Authority, P.O. Box 117 1010, East Eufaula, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 or contact Alexis Crosley at (918) 732-7764. These jobs have an Indian Preference.

Applications may also be downloaded, in PDF format, by going on-line at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and clicking on the link to personnel, then clicking on the link to MCN Trade and Commerce.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel

Licensing Clerk:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months experience in the area of criminal or background investigation and gaming environments. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers licence.

Communications Officer:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse

Qualifications: Needs work experience involving following written directions or rules, dealing with co-workers, supervisors, or members of the public, in providing service or responding to inquiries, and writing reports, correspondence, or keeping logs, or records in providing or maintaining data. Must have a working knowledge of police codes, be responsible for maintaining an accurate log of all incident reports made by the Law Enforcement officers by radio contact, obtain Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (OLETS) certification, knowledge of Medical Dispatch Manual, and Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, and Microsoft Access. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Construction Engineer:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Construction.

Qualifications: Masters Degree in Civil Engineering is preferred. Minimum requirements include a Bachelors Degree with knowledge of architectural and engineering functions for the purpose of planning, organizing, direction, and controlling the procedures and standards necessary to accomplish the mission of developing and maintaining a safe and structural and sound working environment. Must possess a valid drivers licence. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian Preference. For more information on any of these jobs, or to apply please write to: Muskogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447. Or e-mail at jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or call at 732-7827.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Business Enterprise to expand, now accepting applications

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise is planning for the future and the future includes identifying Muscogee citizens to fill potential job opportunities.

MNBE has four divisions, including Construction Services, Technology Services, Call Center Systems and Medical Services. Technology Services includes Personnel Services and Fire and Security systems.

MNBE expects to have job opportunities in the Construction Services Division in the near future. The Construction Services Division is looking for Muscogee citizens who have the qualifications to serve as Project Manager, Superintendent, Foreman, Quality Assurance, skilled carpenters and drywall.

"We want to establish a database of tribal citizens who are interested in working for MNBE with the skill sets necessary to work on commercial, tribal and federal projects", said Woody Anderson, Construction Services Division Manager. "We are looking for those individuals who are interested in working on job sites out-of-state and instate and can pass background checks, which are necessary for most military and federal installation projects. We are also working on developing a backlog of commercial and tribal projects within our tribal jurisdiction where our employees can stay closer to

home."

According to Michael Nalley, Director of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, any tribal citizen wanting to complete an application with MNBE can come by their new offices at 1018 S. Wood Drive

new job opportunities and they will be able to download a job application.

MNBE is actively marketing all services to Tinker Air Force Base and has formed strategic teaming partnerships to secure contract awards in 2005. MNBE has also teamed with the Cherokee Nation to form the Cherokee-Creek Call Center in Muskogee. This teaming partnership will secure jobs for both Tribes in 2005 and beyond.

MNBE Construction Services Division has a 66 month Saber contract at Altus Air Force Base that started in September of 2003 and is designing and building a new 25,000 square foot Tribal gaming facility near the Shawnee and Oklahoma City area.

MNBE Technology Services Division is starting a new contract in December for the Department of Energy BWXT Pantex facility in Amarillo, Texas replacing an existing fire alarm system in two buildings and is providing

Information Technology personnel to U.S. Army Medical Command.

Additionally, MNBE is actively pursuing contract opportunities with Boeing, Northrop Grumman, JE Dunn, Verizon, Sprint, U.S. Air Force, GSA, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Veteran Affairs.



MNBE subcontractor Patton Construction milling the ALZ runway at Altus Air Force Base.

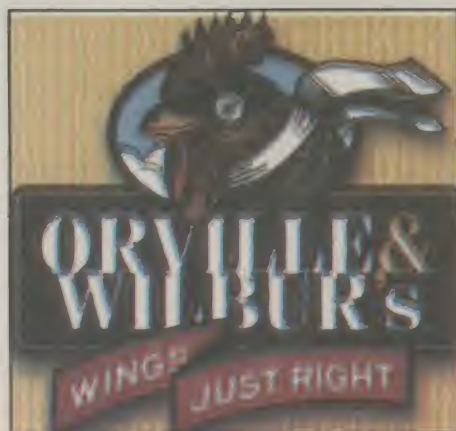
in Okmulgee or call (918) 752-3150 and an application can be mailed to you. For more information about job opportunities in a particular MNBE division, contact Deanna Igney, Human Resources, at (918) 752-3158.

Within the next ninety days, MNBE will have a new web site where tribal citizens can find out about

Creek Nation Casinos offer new choices

OKMULGEE — As of October 8, Tulsa and Okmulgee Casinos are now offering a new menu to dine from. Orville & Wilbur's *Wings Just Right* menu includes dinners, sandwiches, wings, burgers and much more at very reasonable prices. Call-ins are welcome. Orders and deliveries are available from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Hours of service will be Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. To place an order at the Okmulgee Creek Nation Casino, call (918) 756-8400, ext. 126. For more general information regarding this new concept, contact Manuel Marshal at (918) 758-7037.



MCN water bottle labels

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce Department will soon make available the MCN water bottles for public use.

Featured on the label will be Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. The water bottles will come in 12 oz or 20 oz bottles and made available for orders. For more information, contact Eastman Whitlow at (918) 756-8700, ext. 7765.

Spotlight

"In forming this organization, we not only wanted to maintain our identity and our culture. But to maintain the fellowship with the Creeks that live out here." — Ken Taylor

A Nation is only bound by itself

by Gerald Wofford

The nineteenth and twentieth century saw the Muscogee (Creek) Indians finally settling in to their new homeland of Indian territory, which of course would later be Oklahoma. The Nation would pave their way in many areas, specifically economically, socially, and politically. The land and boundaries there in would be claimed, however, some citizens still had a ways to travel.

The Indian Relocation Act had a lot to do with this. After the Second World War, the Federal Government felt the American Indian could prosper and be even more assimilated by offering a chance to relocate to cities around the country. This in lieu of the opportunity of better jobs, life, etc. Like the dust-bowl travelers of the depression era of the 1930's, who went out west looking for more, these *Indian Okies* ventured west seeking the same.

So Native Americans were given financial means to relocate away from their reservations, tribal towns, and communities to start brand new and perhaps find a better way of life. Some travelers prospered, some didn't.

Not all were directly a part of the relocation act, which took place roughly in the 1940's through the 70's. Many were college graduates that took advantage of unique job opportunities. Families were raised, lives were established, but the Creek blood didn't go away.

Nestled in the bustling community that is the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, the rolling ocean that is the Pacific, and the fast lanes that belong to the Sunset Strip, lies the city of Los Angeles.

The city that claims the over used title, *City of the Angels*, in Southern California, also can hold the title, *City of Creeks*.

In this West Coast town is the California Muscogee Creek Association (CMCA). An Association that is continuing to gain attention and a strong identity.

The Association is well organized, comprising of a president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and board members, as well as a researcher.

Back in 2000, the Association approached the Tribal National Council for membership as a charter. The request was denied, but the Association sought other means to exist, and did.

The Association established itself as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Through the status, the association was able to apply for grants and other forms of sponsorship that are nontaxable.

"We are out of the Creek jurisdiction," admits Ken Taylor, who has lived in the area since the 60's. "We knew that when we formed this organization. We wanted to assist the Creeks out here originally, somehow, someway. In forming this organization, we not only wanted to maintain our identity and our culture,

we wanted to maintain the fellowship with the Creeks that live out here."

Taylor mentions programs such as a burial fund for citizens that live out here and free physicals for high school athletes.

It's a Saturday in the Park in West Hollywood. The forecast called for rain, but the Pacific cloud front got stalled out further west. Californians will enjoy pleasant weather in the 70's today. Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and other administrative officials from Oklahoma are invited out for a special visit. Chief Ellis has made an effort to extend a helping hand to Creek citizens everywhere. On this day, Ellis as well as Executive Director Claude Sumner, Michael Flud of Human Resources and other managers of various offices of the tribe, will share how their departments can assist Creeks, no matter where they live.

On this specific weekend the CMCA hosted the "Gathering of California Creek Indians," a two day event that was both sociable and informative, for not only the California Creeks, but for all urban Native Americans in the area.

Presentations were given about finding resources on numerous subjects such as help for the needy, job development, teen pregnancy prevention, and self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency is what the CMCA is all about. After all, the spirit of the Association can truly say that it was born out of a need to survive and thrive.

Larry Bland, Sr., a second generation Californian, was informed of meetings by letters sent by the Association's President, Eli Grayson.

"So far its good, everybody gets together and we get to meet people from different parts of the state," said Bland.

"We're all family, we may be strangers, but we're all one people," said Bland's daughter, Kari.

"I was born in California, northern California," says Earl Steen. "I lived in Southern California for thirty-some-

thing years!" Steen proudly wears his Muscogee (Creek) t-shirt that he got while visiting Oklahoma.

Steen's Father was a surveyor for the BIA and was a part of the relocation program. Steen readily admits that he feels a loss sometimes not being raised in traditional territorial areas, such as Oklahoma. "Oh absolutely! You miss all the things when you're little, growing up learning the culture, learning the stories, and learning all the different things."

Some may feel that Creeks should only live in Oklahoma, others see it different. National Council member George Tiger believes the tribe should help in anyway possible. "The fence came from white people. Muscogee (Creek) people are everywhere."



With Palm Trees laden in the background, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Earl Steen proudly wears the symbol of his tribe.

Shop talk with Gerald

Creek Nation National Council representative and sports enthusiast George Tiger, just completed a sports documentary about the legendary college basketball coach, Abe Lemmons. The production had its debut at a special ceremony honoring Lemmons on the campus of Oklahoma City University on Saturday, November 6. Lemmons earned much of his reputation as not only an offensive guru, but a colorful figure as well at OCU. Tiger not only captured the legendary basketball coach with memorable footage and interviews, but he was able to interview sports legends such as Johnny Bench, Kelvin Sampson, Eddie Sutton, and Bob Knight, each of whom knows Lemmons personally. Tiger said all interviewees were polite and cordial, including the controversial Knight, who has certainly earned a reputation with his run-ins with the media. But I think had the current Texas Tech coach got out of hand with the former Creek fast pitch player, my money would have been on the Sapulpa District Representative.

Well folks, what about the Boston Red Sox! The boys from Bean Town finally got the job done. What a ride it was! After coming back from three games down to their hated rivals, the New York Yankees, the Bo-Sox were able to win four straight to capture the American League Championship. Most impressive was the fact they did it in the most coveted and hallowed of halls, Yankee Stadium. Joe Pickering, Jr., who, along with King of the Road Music, produced the CD, *Baseball Songs and Sports Heroes*. One song on the CD that Pickering wrote was *Babe Ruth's Curse*. The song was featured on the HBO documentary "Curse of the Bambino." But now that the curse has been reversed, what does Pickering do for an encore? "I'm still not used to this," said Pickering referring to the World Championship the team now claims. "What are we supposed to do now? Its like the dog finally catching the car." One thing that Pickering does plan on doing is writing a new song about the long awaited championship he and fellow Red Sox fans have waited 86 years for. Looking back at past disappointments, Pickering remembers in 49 when Boston lost the pennant to New York. "It was the only time I saw my mother cry."

On Saturday, Oct. 23, Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Muskogee Casino was host to *The Final Conflict*. Casino Manger Farrell Kaaihue helped put on a good show. Sammingdum Promotions, which is headed by Muscogee (Creek) citizen James Pruitt, also gave the crowd an exciting show. Pruitt's hands, as well as his feet, were very busy that evening. Not only did he promote the fight, but he fought on the card as well. About the only thing he didn't do was sell popcorn.

A big thanks to Samuel Alexander, who each year gives a Muscogee (Creek) prayer to the Creek Nation Running Team at the Tulsa Run. MVTO!

Haskell University honors Euchee athlete

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Some of the nation's top American Indian athletes are being recognized by Haskell Indian Nations University. While many recognize names such as Jim Thorpe and Billy Mills, both attended Haskell, there is a sports history at Haskell that includes many athletes, according to a Haskell spokesman. A number of coaches and former athletes at Haskell were recognized with special presentations.

The initial class of honorees included Cecil Harry, Euchee descent, a Junior College All-American linebacker in 1970-72 at Haskell. Harry was a prototype of what is seen in the position today. According to Harry's Mother, Nancy Jo Harry, "He had the speed of a running back with the recklessness of Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens."

A graduate of Liberty High School, Harry initially attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College in Miami, Oklahoma, but he decided he would attend Haskell instead. During his two years at Haskell, he led the team in tackles.

He attended Central State University in Edmond, Okla-

homa after leaving Haskell. In his first year, Harry made the All-Conference team in the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference (OCC). The Conference has been recognized as one of the top National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) football conferences in the country.

Another OCC All-Conference linebacker of note was Thomas 'Hollywood' Henderson, who later played for the Dallas Cowboys.

Harry repeated his performance as an All-Conference linebacker in his senior year. Harry was contacted by the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos to attend their training camps as a free agent. Unfortunately, due to injuries suffered in his final season at Central State University, Harry declined to take the offer.

At the ceremony, Harry's presenter was George Tiger. In his acceptance speech, Harry thanked his family for their support, "I played the way

I felt. At that time it was to play hard at all times."

In addition to playing football, Harry was a feared hitter in fast pitch softball.



Simony Harry receives his accolades after being recognized as one of the top athletes at Haskell Indian Nations University. Harry played linebacker in 1970 through 1972.

Creek team captures national fast-pitch title

NEVADA — Each year, Muscogee (Creek) athletes certainly contribute to capturing national titles in various sports. The Duck Creek Reds kept the tradition alive. The Reds, captured first place at the Native American National Fast-Pitch Association Tournament.

The tournament was held in Gardnerville, Nevada. The fast-pitch tournament hosted teams from all over the country, such as California and Nevada. Even teams from as far away as Canada were featured in the tournament.

The Reds were the only team to represent Okla-

homa this year at the prestigious event and were certainly proud to bring home the title in such a unique way. Not only did they add to the prestige of being the sole Oklahoma representative, but the Duck Creek Reds were the first Oklahoma team in over twenty years to win the national tournament.

Pitcher Robbie Harry received the Most Valuable Player Award, while Mark Marshall, Justin Jackson, and Dion Draper received All-Star honors.

The team now wears individual jackets from the tournament claiming their national fast-pitch title.



The Duck Creek Reds Men's Fast Pitch team, comprised of mostly Muscogee (Creek) players, proudly pose after winning the Native American National Fast-Pitch Tournament. The team was sponsored by the Duck Creek Indian Community.

Upcoming sports events

Second Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament

DEWAR — The Second Annual All-Indian March Madness Basketball Tournament will be held March 23 through 27 at the Dewar High School Gymnasium.

The tournament will feature 12 boys and 12 girls teams made up of High School Indian All-Stars throughout Oklahoma and possibly neighboring states.

"Our goal is to relentlessly strive to develop a national reputation for hosting a well organized event with strong competition, outstanding community hospitality, and a venue to showcase the talents of Native American athletes," said Lucas Taylor, Tournament Director.

The five-day event has a three game guarantee with a March Madness feel. Teams will compete in pool play and compete in a single elimination tournament to determine the champion and winner of the coveted *Gold Ball*.

New to this year's tournament is an education fair. Representatives from various institutions of higher learning will set up on Wednesday to assist Native American youth on choices that will affect the rest of their lives.

Special events such as an East/West All-Star Game and 3-point contest, will be held Friday evening beginning at 5 P.M. This part of the tournament will have a NBA All-Star atmosphere feel. Player introductions that will include music, lights, and a fog machine. Also, a musical performance is scheduled for halftimes of each All-Star game. Following the special events will be a dance held at the Henryetta Inn and Dome. A pool party will also be held at the same location earlier in the week.

The tournament will culminate with a formal awards banquet held Sunday afternoon. During this banquet, the tournament MVP, All-Tournament and outstanding offensive and defensive player will be announced. Also, two \$500 to \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to one male and one female tournament participant chosen from the top three applicants. Applicants will be judged by a five member committee.

"Athletics is great for our Native American youth," said Taylor. "However, there is no substitute for education. Our society places too much emphasis on becoming a professional athlete. If someone doesn't reach that level they are considered a failure. If we can help set one individual on the path of higher learning, all the time spent for this tournament is worth it! It is time we start providing avenues for our youth to succeed."

For an entry form, scholarship application, or for more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or after 5 p.m. at (918) 650-3920. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the new look communications home page on www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

MNN Athlete of the Month: Mindy Chancey



by Lucas Taylor

HENRYETTA — At the age of eight, Mindy Chancey took up the sport of softball. Since then, she has helped lead the Henryetta Lady Knights to two consecutive district, regional, and state appearances in Oklahoma High School Class 3A Softball. What a way to have fun with your friends!

Chancey, a junior at Henryetta, plays third base and bats cleanup for the Lady Knights. If you ask anyone who has watched her to describe her play, two words come to mind, aggressive and intense.

"Mindy has been a great leader by example," said Head Coach John Mechler. "Her aggressiveness on both the offensive and defensive sides of the game is a great example for the younger players."

Whoever said practice makes perfect must have had Chancey in mind. According to the Henryetta Middle School Softball Coach Stefanie Taylor, Chancey has shown this specific characteristic since the seventh grade. "While others were asking when practice was going to end, she would ask if she could stay later and field more ground balls. It came to the point where I almost had to force her to go home."

While other teenagers at Henryetta are planning a typical weekend, Mindy regularly travels to Oklahoma City to receive hitting instructions from her hitting instructor, Steve Factor, beginning in January.

"She is always trying to develop the perfect swing," said her mother, Beverly. "However, Steve has to constantly remind her that no matter how hard you try nobody is perfect."

It's this type of attitude and determination that has

help Chancey garner offensive recognition. She was recently selected to the All County and All Conference teams. Chancey was second on the team in At Bats (100), and Hits (38). She led the team in singles (31), and was third in doubles (7). She was also second in RBIs (24), and batting average (.380).

This type of all-state caliber play has captured the attention of many area colleges, including those out of state. Her play has been so impressive, that the coach from Wilburton has asked Chancey if she would come down and hold an all day camp for a 12 and under girls softball team.

"She is always there for others," said Coach Taylor. "You rarely see that quality in person that has enjoyed so much success both on and off the field. She is a great role model!"

Through all the practice time, traveling, and games, she still manages to maintain a 4.14 G.P.A. What makes the average more impressive is the fact that the subjects she studies are classified as Honors Classes. The classes are based on a 5.0 scale. She is currently enrolled in three Honors Classes.

The MNN wishes to congratulate Mindy Chancey on being the MNN athlete of the Month. Along with being featured in this month's edition, she will be interviewed on the Muscogee Nation News Radio program. She also automatically qualifies for consideration for the MNN Athlete of the Year.

The staff of the MNN encourages our readers to submit more Creek athletes for consideration of athlete of the month.

DESHAWN BRADWELL

MORRIS — Funeral services for Deshawn Bradwell were held October 25 at Morris Cemetery officiated by Rev. Marvin Lowe.

Deshawn was born October 21 and died the same day.

He is survived by: Daniel and Kristie, his parents of Lawton; maternal grandparents, Eastman and Roberta Whitlow of Morris; grandmother, Roseanne Whitlow of Dustin; and sister, Andrea Bradwell of Lawton.

Interment was at Morris Cemetery.

ALEXANDER BROWN

STRATFORD — Alexander J. Brown passed away March 28, 2004. He was born March 29, 1962 at Southgate, California to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Brown Jr.

Alexander drove company trucks, but always wanted to drive semi-trucks state to state. He loved sports and was twelve years old when he played football at Oklahoma City and played baseball, volleyball, basketball and horse-shoe throwing, most of all he loved playing men's fast pitch tournaments for his father.

In November 2001, he was diagnosed with melanoma cancer and he fought it for 2 1/2 years.

Brown belonged to the Tiger clan and was very proud of that.

Preceding him in death were: grandfather, Samuel Brown Sr. of Hanna; grandmother, Essie Brown Hicks of Okemah; grandfather, Collin Postoak of Stratford; grandmother, Sina Postoak Frazier of Ardmore; sister, Rachael Brown of Oklahoma City; and one uncle.

Survivors include: parents; five brothers, Michael, Eddie, Samuel Brown III, all of Stratford, Tim and Orlando Brown, both of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Colleenia of Oklahoma City and Racheal Brown of Mill Creek; and one uncle.

JOSEPHINE SOWEKA

RYAL — Funeral services for Josephine "Lesta" Soweka were held October 28 at the Ryal Community Baptist Church with Reverend John Tulsa officiating.

She was born April 4, 1920 in Hanna to Jim and Jennie Deo Pigeon.

Josephine worked as a dry cleaner and was a member of the Ryal Community Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death was: her parents; husband, Bunnie Soweka; two sisters, Mary Soweka and Lucy Fixico; and two brothers, Turner and Bennie

Pigeon.

Survivors include: daughter, Bonnie Soweka; son, Chad Hill, both of Henryetta; and a brother, John Pigeon of Okeechobee, Florida.

Casketbearers were George Hill, Rocky Pigeon, Harry Tulsa, Jimmy King, Bud and Chubby Soweka. Interment was at the Soweka Cemetery.

ANDREW TECUMSEH

BIXBY — Funeral services for Andrew Tecumseh were held October 21 at Concharty Methodist Church with Rev. Newman Frank and Rev. Marvin Lowe officiating.

He was born January 4, 1949 in Claremore to Evelyn and Andy Tecumseh.

Andrew was married to Louise Haynes Tecumseh at Tulsa on March 27, 1982. Tecumseh was a machinist with the DP Manufacturing Co. and was a veteran with the U.S. Navy serving in the Vietnam era. He was a member of Concharty Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include: his wife of the home; son, Aaron; two daughters, Sehoya Fleischman and Leeann Latour, both of Oklahoma City; three grandchildren; his mother of Twin Hills; brother, Alex Tecumseh of Broken Arrow; and a host of friends and other relatives.

Interment was at the Tecumseh Family Cemetery.

ANITA TOKARSKI

STIDHAM — A memorial service for Anita Kay Floyd Tokarski was held October 23 at the Little Coweta Baptist Church.

She was born September 5, 1956 in Oklahoma City.

Anita was a graduate from Eufaula High School in 1974 and attended Northeastern University before transferring to Draughton's School of Business in Tulsa.

After graduating, she moved to Denver, Colorado where she went to work for Frontier Airlines. Tokarski lived in Tennessee and California before settling in Arizona where she met and married Norbert Tokarski.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joe L. Floyd.

Survivors include: her husband of the home; daughter, Laurie Parker of Frisco, Texas; mother, Margaret Floyd of Eufaula; four brothers, Robert of Oklahoma City, Philip of El Reno, James of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Jerry Floyd of Broken Arrow; sisters, Regina Sue and Carroll Wilbanks of Bethany, Nancy Chiles, Betty and Lisa Floyd, all of Eufaula; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was at Paradise Memorial Garden in Scottsdale, Arizona.

ELSIE WATERS

WELEETKA — Funeral services for Elsie Waters was held July 26 at the Arbeka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Christopher Harjo and Rev. Marvin Lowe officiating.

She was born October 11, 1913 in Bryant to Nancy and Jackson Barnett.

In 1944, she was married to Anderson Waters. Mrs. Waters was a member of Arbeka Indian Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death was: her parents; an infant son; sister, Kogee Barnett; and three brothers, Joe Asbury, Josiah and Dick Barnett.

Survivors include: son, David Waters of Tecumseh; five daughters, Myrtle Fraser of Weleetka, Ruby Wilson, Betty and Linda Waters, all of Dewar and Nancy Crawford of Oklahoma City; twenty grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; and a host of friends and relatives.

Interment was at Arbeka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery.

SHELLY ANN HARJO

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Shelly Ann Harjo were held October 16 at Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor and Rev. Sonny Braswell officiating.

Shelly Ann Harjo, 35, passed away in Henryetta on Tuesday, Oct. 12, following a courageous battle with a lengthy illness. Born Feb. 18, 1969, to the late Walter Taylor, Sr. and Sally Ann Taylor of Ryal, she attended Ryal Grade School and graduated from Graham High School in 1987.

She married Ryan Harjo on April 6, 1991. The family made their home in Wilburton, Henryetta, Muskogee and Dewar.

Shelly's love for her family was top priority in her life. She went out of her way to make sure each member of her family felt special, especially her nieces and nephews, who affectionately knew her as "Auntie Momma." Throughout her daily battle with her illness, regardless of how much pain she was in, she would always ask how you were doing and ask you to pray for someone else.

She was a member of Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church. She loved Winnie the Pooh, watching movies with her family and enjoyed listening to Aerosmith. She had a passion for doing things for others, such as birthday cards, christmas cards or making gifts by hand.

Shelly is survived by her husband, Ryan, of the home, two children, Tess and Garrett, both of the home, two sisters, Sarah Taylor of Ryal, Shelia Buckley of Okmulgee, two brothers, Lucas Taylor of Henryetta, Walter Taylor, Jr. of Henryetta, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Interment was at the Taylor Family Cemetery.



Brown

Creek woman returns from Hollywood and opens cosmetic studio

EUFULA — A small town Oklahoma girl, Selina Jayne, who spent years working in the glamour of Hollywood, has recently returned home to open her own business, a Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio.

Jayne's former life was as a makeup artist in Hollywood. She recently returned to the Sooner State after making her mark on the silver screen by working on the likes of Tom Cruise and Naomi Watts, to name a few.

"I did everything I wanted in Hollywood," Jayne said. "I did a little acting, a lot of makeup and even was able to help produce a film. I just got to the point where I wanted to be my own boss and I wanted to come home."

Even casual filmgoers will likely recognize the films Jayne worked on. There was *The Big Lebowski*, *Starship Troopers*, *Magnolia* and *Mulholland Drive*.

Jayne is holding the grand opening of her studio in November and is bringing some star power with her in the form of Paul LeMat, a veteran Hollywood actor who has appeared in such films as *American Graffiti*, *Melvin and Howard* and *The Burning Bed*.

Jayne did LeMat's makeup for a film and later worked with him again on a movie she co-produced. LeMat has agreed to come down to Eufaula to lend support to an old buddy.

"I've known her for years," LeMat told the Native American Times. "She's good at what she does and knows what she's doing. Hey, what are friends for?"

The Blue November MicroFilm Fest to be held

TULSA— *The Blue November Microfilm Festival Stage II* will be held on Nov. 19 and 20, from 7:00 P.M. to 10 P.M. in the OSU-Tulsa Auditorium located at 700 North Greenwood.

Captain Chambers returns with Stage II! The festival has tripled in size this year. Oklahoma will be on display, with entries from Norman, Oklahoma City, Enid and Tulsa. This year's theme, "Completing the Circle," blends perfectly with the Captain's philosophy of combining art, music and film, a method he has used in his own films. The motto is, "support art in general, support art in the community, and support the artist always."

An after party will follow the festival each night, featuring local musicians in a local setting, with surprise guests and performances. Awards are designed and created by local artist and sculptor, Neil Cluck.

This year's festival has expanded into a larger venue, complete with integrated sound and audio, and seating for 300. There is no entry fee for filmmakers, and admission is free.

Ashton Elder, a Stage I alumni and recipient of the Best Cinematography Award, returns this year with two new films. Ellen Gerstein, a referral from the CineWomen Organization, is submitting her first film.

Fae Wiedenhoef returns as web and graphics designer for the festival. Her designs for last year's

poster and related propaganda were an integral part of the festival's success. The musical and entertainment lineup will be dramatic and spectacular. This year offers a unique opportunity for many memorable performances.

The Blue November MicroFilm Fest STAGE II will be a festival of both sight and sound, of art, music and film, and an exhibition of art in the community. This festival is locally created and locally focused.

For any information regarding the festival, Blue November Creations or any press related inquiries, please contact Captain Chambers at Captain@blue-november.com or 918-519-9607 or visit the Blue November site at www.blue-november.com.

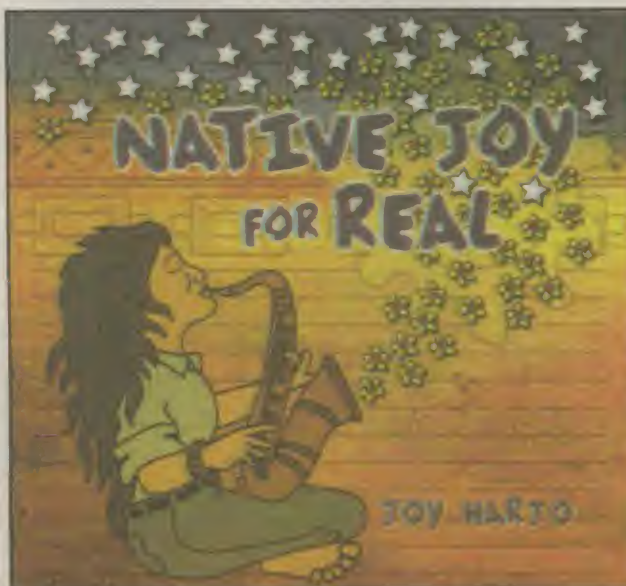


Joy Harjo releases new CD, *Native Joy For Real*

Native Joy For Real marks Joy Harjo's debut as a singer/songwriter. The album is so strong, so brimming with soul and beauty, that even long time fans will be astonished by the power of its poetic vision.

Harjo has created ten singular invocations of contemporary life, on and off the reservation, that deal with the joys and tribulation of everyday existence. The music blends traditional Native rhythms and singing with jazz, rock, blues and a touch of hip hop. Harjo's trademark intensity is still inspiring.

The songs feature memorable refrains, smokey sax work, subtle powwow based beats, and uplifting lyrics. The unifying factor is Harjo's poetic and political vision. Harjo is a successful and critically acclaimed poet, children's author and professor at UCLA. With *Native Joy for Real*, she makes a giant step towards mainstream credibility.



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Veterans Day Ceremony

November 10, 2004



"Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans. In 1968, new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date."



Veterans bow their heads during the opening prayer.

Members of the Honor Guard salute the flag.



Children from the Wilson Head Start prepare to sing a Creek song.

Judge Moore gives the opening address.



Judge Moore, right, congratulates Loy Thomas for his service to our Country.

Ken Davis, foreground, organized this year's veterans' ceremony.



Veterans Ceremony photos by Lucas Taylor



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Royalty



Stompdance



Rev. Harry Long offers word of prayer



Miss Muscogee Nation Victoria Mills

All Photos by Ruth Bible



18th Annual Council
200





Oak Tree Ceremony

4



Muscogee Nation Honor Guard



Second Chief Alfred Berryhill



Muscogee Nation Honor Guard



Ceremonial ground leaders and members

Administration visits California associaton



Members of the California Creek Association and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Administration.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Director Claude Sumner addresses the California Creek Association audience.

National Council Representative George Tiger, right, offers a word of prayer.



California Creek Association President Eli Grayson and Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief A.D. Ellis.



California photos by Gerald Wofford

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis meets with Muscogee (Creek) Association member Pam Wiley during his visit to California.



Tribe breaks ground for Koweta Health Facility

COWETA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation furthered its progress of serving tribal citizens by holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Koweta Health and Dental Facility on Saturday, December 11.

The facility has been the desire and hope of Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes/District Representatives Richard Berryhill and Barbara Gillespie. Berryhill and Gillespie represent the Coweta area.

"Prayers do get answered," said an excited Gillespie at the ceremony. "Tribal citizens will now have top of the line health services available to them directly instead of having to travel to farther locations."

Berryhill echoed the comments of Gillespie, and mentioned that the facility was actually in the planning process for some time. "We've worked on this for many years, twelve years to get this facility started. I know its taken a lot of people, a lot of time, a lot of effort, a lot of prayers to help move our Nation forward." Berryhill is excited that the operation of the facility will also allow working closer with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to provide even more services.



Bulldozers and other construction were already in use during the ceremony which is expected to be 56,000 square feet and is planning to be opened on October 1, 2005.

Dignitaries in attendance for the ceremony included Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, former Chief R. Perry Beaver, National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola and the Mayor of Coweta, Bill Osborne. Osborne was looking forward to the development of the facility, as well as the relationship between the city and the tribe.

Chief Ellis told Tulsa television station FOX-NEWS that the tribe is diversifying nation wide and wanted the public to know that the Creek Nation is much more than tribal casinos. "We're expanding. We don't depend on gaming for everything. We're expanding in the business industry and medical care."

City of Okmulgee and Tribal Officials begin Industrial Complex development with ground breaking ceremony

Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the City of Okmulgee officials broke ground Friday, December 10, on the Creek Nation Light Industrial Complex located on U.S. Highway 75 in Okmulgee to kickoff its development.

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola, City of Okmulgee Mayor Everett Horn, and City Manager Bob Baxter, performed a ceremonial ground breaking with short rousing speeches.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises erected a large sign depicting the "home" of the new complex. Muscogee Nation Trade and Commerce Director, Danny Wesley, who will manage the property, spoke of the future businesses scheduled for the 40-acre location. He reported that a tire and auto service center, tribal transit authority headquarters and other retail businesses have agreed to locate on this property. Wesley added that negotiations are proceeding for several light manufacturing businesses to join this tribal venture. He offered (918) 732-7765 as his contact information for other interested business.

Mike Flud, Human Development Director, coordinated the groundbreaking and coordinates all efforts to obtain permits, approvals and contracts with City and County of Okmulgee, State offices and Federal agencies to complete utility and access infrastructure. Several members of the Muscogee National Council and many staff attended the ceremony. Chief Ellis and Mayor Horn both announced that economic growth through full community cooperation will be the continuing theme for development in the Okmulgee area.



Pictured above, holding shovels, from left to right, are Second Chief Berryhill, Speaker Thomas Yahola, Principal Chief Ellis, Okmulgee City Manager Bob Baxter, and Della Cherry, Deputy Director Community Development, along with other tribal and city officials. *by Denise Jacobs*

Soldier receives special message during Big 12 Championship

By Jay Senter, Journal-World staff writer

KANSAS CITY — Haskell Indian Nations University employee Nathan Anderson admitted he was a bit reluctant to haul the sign to Arrowhead Stadium for the Big 12 Championship game between Oklahoma and Colorado.

"I don't usually try to be a highlight," he said. "I just wanted to go and enjoy the game."

But a call from his sister-in-law convinced him that the Dec. 4 game in Kansas City, Mo., might offer an opportunity to send a special message to a member of the armed forces: Anderson's niece, Pfc. Leslie Montemayor, a member of the Army National Guard

who is stationed at Camp Taqaddum in Iraq.

Sure, it was a long shot. First, Anderson would have to get a cameraman to focus on the sign, which had a greeting with a picture of Montemayor standing next to the Creek tribal flag. And even if he managed to get the sign on screen, there wasn't much hope that Montemayor would see the game live — it didn't come on in Iraq until 4 a.m.

"She told us that it was going to be on really early in the morning, and didn't think she'd



Tribal citizen Nathan Anderson and Casey Johnson hold a sign with a special message for Pfc. Leslie Montemayor.

please see **SOLDIER...**, page 13

Letter of inquiry of 1955 Haskell Classmates

Editor:

The 1955 graduates of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas are trying to locate classmates. We are trying to locate the following: Kenneth Berryhill, Ben Deerinwater, Irene Smith, Ruth Tiger, and Pauline Wolfe.

Any assistance anyone can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Avis Goldek, 1955 H.I. Grad., Oceanside, CA

(760) 757-2619

Young lady's faith restored

Editor:

At approximately 7:30 a.m., I was on my way to Okmulgee to work. I was between Okemah and the Clearview exit on I-40 when I saw a young girl standing in the median next to her vehicle, which was pulling a U-Haul trailer. The young lady had been west bound, however, the vehicle and trailer was now headed east. She had apparently hydroplaned and was very lucky to only be partially stuck in the median.

The young lady was trying to wave people down for help. Someone had stopped in front of me, talked to her, then left. She came over to my car and told me what had happened. I asked her if she would like for me to call a wrecker and she told me that she only had enough money to buy gas and would be lucky if the money was enough to get her to her destination in California.

I called an acquaintance and got the phone number for a local wrecker service, but when I called they were closed until after Thanksgiving. I called another wrecker service which had a number that would not ring through. The third service had an answering machine. I called the local police station to see if they could offer any assistance. The man that I spoke to was as cold as the rain on this particular day.

During this time the young lady was attempting to flag down someone who might help. The second State Trooper stopped long enough to tell her he couldn't help her, turned on his lights to pull out and disappeared somewhere up the road. By then, the young lady was near tears and asked me, "Isn't there anyone who cares anymore?"

About that time a pickup with a Muscogee (Creek) Nation license plate started backing up. The driver got out and asked what had happened and offered to go to his place of employment, which was Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. The young lady explained that she had no money to pay a wrecker and he told her that he would send some of his employees anyway to see if they would help. I told her to get in her vehicle and that she could expect someone to help her. I wished her well and proceeded on my way to work.

During my drive, I felt very thankful for the many blessings in my life, such as my job and my loved ones who are near to me and the warmth and security of home at the end of the day. I had truthfully lost my faith

in people during the short period of time that I was on the side of the road trying to help this young lady. It appeared that I-40 was full of people with no feelings for their brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. How could people leave a stranded young lady on the side of the road, especially during the holiday season?

Yes, I had lost my faith in people until a gentleman, a Creek Citizen, offered to help. This made me so very proud of my people! This gentleman, I later found out, is Thomas Yarholar, Chief of Security at the Triple T Casino, and also a member at Springfield Indian Methodist Church. I would like to commend Mr. Yarholar for his efforts and his display of genuine concern for people in need of help. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town should be very proud to have Mr. Yarholar and his staff as employees. KUDOS to you Thomas and the members of your staff who offered their assistance! God Bless you all!

Cyndi Gilks, CHR Manager

Living with election results

Editor:

The elections are over, and we Creeks must learn to live with the results. One of my greatest concerns is what measures will be taken by the Government regarding the excessive national debt, and the continued costs of the war. The long-term factors of this tremendous debt will impact more on the younger working people than the retired seniors.

In Pete Peterson's book, "Running on Empty," Mr. Peterson is very concerned over the huge national debt, the large trade imbalance, and the falling value of the dollar. He states the fact that our Government is becoming indebted to foreign countries for the financial ongoing of our Government operations. The 6 trillion dollar plus national debt, in addition to the \$100 billion that has been spent on the wars to date and our unfunded liabilities that total between 45 and 51 trillion dollars, will be a heavy tax burden. He says that if the dollar should keep dropping, the countries who are funding us may withdraw their support. China and Japan are the leading purchasers of our bonds.

Since personal debt of the American people is in excess of 9 trillion dollars, I think, like Mr.

Peterson, that we must get out of debt, especially credit card debt.

Younger working Creeks will be the ones who will have the brunt of taxation on their shoulders, as well as all young Americans. We Creeks should get out of debt as quickly as we can and try and build up a substantial cash reserve, if possible, that would take care of daily needs. Someone has said that the cash reserve should cover at least six months of your recurring expenses.

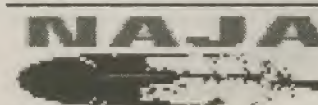
Sincerely yours,

Jorene Coker, Preston

please see **LETTERS...**, page 19

Muscogee Nation News

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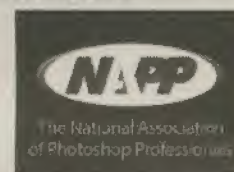


Native American Journalist Association

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.



LUCAS TAYLOR
Managing Editor

DENISE JACOBS
Editorial Assistant

GERALD WOFFORD
Photography/Writer

JENNIFER TARYOLE
Staff Writer

SARA GIBSON
Staff Writer

CARLA BROWN
Graphic Designer

JOSHUA SLANE
Reporter

MALLORY BIBLE
Photography

RUTH BIBLE
Advertising

WILMA MURPHY
Circulation

Subscription Rate:
1 Year - \$12

Send money order to:
Communications Dept.
PO BOX 580

Okmulgee, OK 74447

Change of Address:
(918) 732-7637

wmurphy@muscogeenation-
nsn.gov

Office of the Principal Chief...

Greetings to all. The Principal Chief and staff want to extend a Merry Christmas to all Creek citizens and their families. During this festive time of year, we must give thanks to our American way of life and remember those who are less fortunate, especially the children.

During the month of November, I was able to visit the Holdenville, Eufaula, Wetumka and Dewar Nutrition Centers. A great Thanksgiving dinner at the Eufaula Boarding School was also enjoyed.

A meeting with several Tribal Leaders was attended to form the foundation for the 2005 National Congress of American Indian Conference to be held in Tulsa. This will compose of about 3,000 tribal leaders from the entire United States.

The Tribal Grant Department, headed by **Dr. Leola Taylor**, has completed the grant application and it was approved by the National Council to build a state of the art, all-purpose building on the Omnplex, providing the grant is awarded to the Creek Nation. This will include an ultra-

modern basketball gym, fitness center and later on, a swimming pool. Our young people need an outlet to pursue sports and elderly need to preserve their good health.

This week, on Thursday, December 9, there was a ribbon cutting for the new Trade and Commerce Document Imaging Company. On Friday, December 10, there was a Ground Breaking for the Creek Nation Industrial Park north of town, and on Saturday, December 11, there was a Ground Breaking for the new Coweta Health Clinic.

The Muscogee Nation is moving forward in the busi-



by **A. D. Ellis**

ness industry and health care. Many elders are now moving or are already moved into the new elderly addition behind the Housing Authority building.

My expectations for this administration are probably unreachable, but we will continue to strive to provide more than ever before for our people. We deal in facts, figures and truth, instead of rumors and fiction.

This administration is still building a progressive future by practicing self-determination through action, not words.

Please remember our military men, women and their families in your prayers. **Ken Davis, Veterans Affairs Officer**, has been trying to arrange transportation for him and me to go to Baghdad, Iraq to visit our Creek Troops, but we are not yet successful.

I wish to all a Merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays! *Mvto!*

Quote of the month: *"It is better to deserve honors and not have them, than to have them and not deserve them."*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Nettv Cako Rakko Herv (Merry Christmas). Let us try to remember the true meaning of Christmas. I hope that each of you will enjoy the company of your family members. It was during this time that an infant named Jesus was born, thus inaugurating the first fruit of Christendom.

A long time ago, there was another beginning and no one can really say the true origin of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Oral history has differing versions of our origin. However, through the work of an ethnologist named John Swanton, there is recorded a version that was translated from Creek to English about the origin through the words of Chekilli.

I will write from the Forty-Second Annual Report of The Bureau of American Ethnology, 1924-1925, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1928. This will be the first of a series of recorded history about our people.

"WHAT CHEKILLI, THE HEAD-CHIEF OF THE UPPER AND LOWER CREEKS SAID, IN A TALK HELD AT SAVANNAH, ANNO 1735, AND WHICH WAS HANDED OVER BY THE INTERPRETER, WRITTEN UPON A BUFFALO-SKIN WAS, WORD FOR WORD, AS FOLLOWS:"

"[Speech, which, in the year 1735, was delivered at Savannah, in Georgia, by] Chekilli, Emperor of the Upper and Lower Creeks; Antiche, highest Chief of the town of the Cowetas, Eliche, King; Ousta, Head-chief of the Cussitaws, Tomechaw, War King; Wali, War-captain of the Palachucolas, Poepiche, King; Tomehuichi, Dog-king of the Euchitaws; Mittakawye, Head War-chief of the Okonees, Tuwechiche, King; Whoyauni, Head War-chief of the Chehaws and of the Hokmulge Nation; Stimelacoweche, King of the Osoches; Opithli, King of the Jawocolos [Sawokli]; Ewenauki, King; Tahmokmi, War captain of the Eufantees [misprint for Eufalees?]; and thirty other Warriors."

"At a certain time the Earth opened in the West, where

its mouth is. The Earth opened and the Cussitaws came out of its mouth, and settled near by. But the Earth became angry and ate up their children; therefore, they moved further West. A part of them, however, turned back, and came again to the same place where they had been and settled there. The greater number remained behind, because they thought it best to do so. Their children, nevertheless, were eaten by the Earth, so that, full of dissatisfaction, they journeyed toward the sunrise."

"They came to a thick, muddy, slimy river—came there, camped there, rested there, and stayed over night there. The next day, they continued their journey and came, in one day, to a red, bloody river. They lived by this river, and ate of its fishes for two years; but there were low springs there; and it did not please them to remain. They went toward the end of this bloody river, and heard a noise as of thunder. They approached to see whence the noise came. At first they perceived a red smoke, and then a mountain which thundered; and on the mountain was a sound as of singing. They went to see what this was; and it was a great fire which blazed upward, and made this singing noise. This mountain they named the King of Mountains. It thunders to this day; and men are very much afraid of it."

"They here met a people of three different Nations. They had taken and saved some of the fire from the mountain; and, at



this place, they also obtained a knowledge of herbs and of other things."

"From the East, a white fire came to them; which, however, they would not use. From Wahalle [the South] came a fire which was black; nor would they use it. At last, came a fire from the North, which was red and yellow. This they mingled with the fire they had taken from the mountain; and this is the fire they use to-day; and this, too, sometime sings. On the mountain was a pole which was very restless and made a noise, nor could any one say how it could be quieted. At length they took a motherless child, and struck it against the pole; and thus killed the child. They then took the pole, and carry it with them when they go to war. It was like a wooden tomahawk, such as they now use, and of the same wood."

"Here they also found four herbs or roots, which sang and disclosed their virtues: First, *Pasaw* [pasa], the rattlesnake root; second, *Micoweanochaw* [miko hoyanidja], red root; third, *Sowatchko* [sowatchko], which grows like wild fennel; and fourth, *Eschalapootchke* [hitci laputki], little tobacco. These herbs, especially the first and third, they use as the best medicine to purify themselves at their Bust. At this Bust, which is held yearly, they fast, and make offerings of the first fruits. Since they have learned the virtues of these herbs, their women, at certain times, have a separate fire, and remain apart from the men five, six and seven days, for the sake of purification. If they neglected this, the power of the herbs would depart; and women would not be healthy."

"About this time a dispute arose, as to which was the oldest, and which should rule; and they agreed, as they were four Nations, they would set up four poles, and make them red with clay which is yellow at first, but becomes red by burning.

Education

Hammon wins first chair violin

BARTLESVILLE — Jordan Hammon recently won First Chair Violin in the Northeastern Oklahoma All-District Strings Orchestra competition held at Bartlesville High School. Five schools, Jenks, Union, Bartlesville, Owasso, and Skiatook sent seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grade students to compete in the district competition. Jordan placed first in a field of 24 violinists.

Jordan has also recently been selected to participate in the Duke University seventh grade Talent Search Program. The Talent Search Program identifies academically talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school.

Candidates are identified and invited to complete either the SAT or ACT. The goal is to assist young people with excellent mathematical or verbal aptitude. She will be taking the ACT in December.

Jordan is a seventh grade honor student at Jenks Middle School and is enrolled in their gifted and talented program.



Hammon

Spradling accepted into the school of architecture

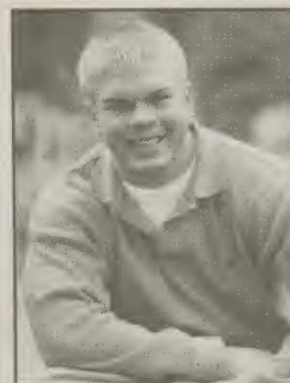
GRAVETTE, Ark. — Jarrod Scott Spradling, a 2000 graduate of Gravette High School, has been accepted into the Professional School of Architecture at Oklahoma State University. Based on academic achievement and professional potential, only thirty applicants are accepted each year at this highly respected school.

The OSU School of Architecture is consistently ranked as one of the top architectural schools in the world. Over the past forty years, the Oklahoma State University School of Architecture has one of the best records of success in student design competitions, as compared to all accredited schools in the United States.

Jarrod is the son of Steven and Janet Baldwin Spradling of Bella Vista, Arkansas. He is the grandson of Jack and Yvonne Haikey Bullock Spradling of Broken Arrow and the great-grandson of the late Luther and Ethel Baird Spradling and the late Cordellia Bullock all of Bixby.

Jarrod is also the great-grandson of the late Jesse Haikey of Broken Arrow, an original allottee of the Creek Nation. Spradling carries his Indian name "Whitebear II".

He is a member of the Bear Clan and Cheyaha Tribal Town. His family church is Haikey United Methodist Chapel in Broken Arrow.



Spradling

Littlehead receives Tiger cub of the month

COWETA — Tommy Littlehead, a Yuchi in the first grade at Coweta Central, recently received the Tiger Cub of the Month for November. He was also Tiger Cub of the Month for November in 2003.

Tommy is the son of Jay and Carlena Littlehead.



Littlehead

Births

William Corbin Harjo

TULSA — William Corbin Harjo was born August 17 at St. Francis Hospital to Ben Harjo and Amanda Bowman.

He weighed 9 lbs. and 15 ounces and was 20.75 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents Earline and William Corbin Bowman, Jr., of Tulsa.

Paternal grandparents are Thomas and Linda Harjo of Sapulpa.

Williams has one big sister, Savanna Harjo.



Harjo

Mandy Louise Hoku'tce Proctor

JACKSON, Miss. — Mandy Louise Hoku'tce Proctor was born on September 16 at the University Medical Center to Samara Proctor.

She weighed 5 lbs and 14 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Grandparents are Hattie Proctor of Philadelphia, MS and Sam Proctor of Dustin.

Great-grandparents are the late Maggie Beaver Proctor and Johnson Proctor of Hanna.

She is of the Creek/Cherokee/Mississippi Choctaw descent and belongs to the Bear Clan and the Tallahausee Tribal Town.



Proctor

Birthday

Coker celebrates with Yu-Gi-Oh theme

STILLWATER — Taylor Chase Coker celebrated his seventh birthday on Oct. 16 at Kid's Kingdom. The party was in a Yu-Gi-Oh theme. Attendees enjoyed games, cake and punch.

Coker is a first grader at Perkins-Tryon Elementary School. He is very active in tee ball and flag football. He is the son of Cheryl Douglas and Barry Coker of Perkins.

Maternal grandparents are Bill and Betty Douglas of Chandler and the late Norma Douglas of Chandler. Paternal grandparents are Cora Lee Coker of Wewoka and Sonny Coker of Bristow.

Girl celebrates 11th birthday

PERKINS — Caitlin Paige Coker celebrated her eleventh birthday on Oct. 24 at the Perkins Community building with a carnival type theme. Attendees enjoyed hotdogs, cotton candy, cake, punch and played carnival type games for prizes.

She is a fifth grader at Perkins-Tryon Intermediate School. She is active in basketball, tumbling and cheerleading.



T. and C. Coker

Factor celebrates birthday at Chuck E. Cheese

TULSA — Josiah Alan Factor turned three on Nov. 26 and celebrated with two parties at the Okmulgee Child Development Center and a party at Chuck E. Cheese.

He is the son of Daniel and Ellie Factor of Okemah.

Maternal grandparents are Della Proctor of Okmulgee and Elliot Barnett of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Noah and Lucinda Factor of Okemah. Maternal great grandparents are the late Judy Proctor of Hanna and the late Rev. Austin and Mamie Barnett of Eufaula. Paternal great grandparents are Rev. Wilson and Ina Hicks of Okemah. He has one sister, Kaitlyn, and attends Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church.



Factor

Boy celebrates third birthday at McDonalds

HENRYETTA — Isaac Jordan Jennings turned three Nov. 20. He celebrated on Nov. 27 at McDonalds.

He is the son of Kirby Jennings of Okmulgee and Kristi Morgan of Ardmore.

Maternal grandparents are Dorislene Morgan of Ardmore and Kenneth Morgan of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Teresa Tarpalechee Jennings and Bobby Jennings of Okmulgee.

Maternal great grandparents are Pauline Morgan and the late Dan Morgan.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Henry and Elizabeth Tarpalechee and the late Pearl Day.



Jennings

Third Annual Camp Cvfeknetv date is set

WELLING — Once again it is time for camp Cvfeknetv. Come and enjoy all the fun with activities such as horse back riding, basketball, volleyball, softball, swimming, and so much more.



All participants will have the opportunity to learn about traditional tobacco and the Muscogee traditions. The camp will be located at the Heart O' the Hills in Welling for ages 12 to 18 years old. Registration is free.

"I have attended the past two Camp Cvfeknetv events and have enjoyed educating our local and surrounding area youth about our Creek traditions" said MCN Tobacco Prevention Staff Melanie Edwards. "Every year has brought something new and exciting to the camp agenda. I am looking forward to our third annual camp."

To register or for more information about this camp, contact Melanie Edwards at (918) 756-6231.

Second hand smoke kills

OKMULGEE — Secondhand smoke (SHS), known also as environment tobacco smoke (ETS), is both the smoke given off by the burning end of cigarettes, cigars, or pipes and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers that is inhaled by nonsmokers.

Second smoke contains a complex mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals, more than 50 of which are cancer causing agents (carcinogens).

Children and adolescents with at least one smoking parent have a 25 to 40% increased risk of chronic respiratory symptoms, such as cough, wheezing and breathlessness.

Secondhand smoke is estimated to cause 3,000 lung cancer deaths in nonsmokers each year.

Approximately 53,000 nonsmoking Americans die from secondhand smoke each year.

Doctor's Note

A special message from the staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Staff

OKMULGEE—The best gift this Christmas Season is the gift of health for you or someone you love. If you are ready to quit smoking, contact your local MCN health care facility. We can help!

Eufaula Health Care Center 918-689-2547
CN Okemah Hospital 918-623-1424
Okmulgee Health Care Center 918-756-1926
Sapulpa Health Care Center 918-224-9310

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention uses street teams to educate youth about preventing commercial tobacco abuse

OKMULGEE — Each day nearly 5,000 youth ages 12 to 17 try a cigarette for the first time. One third of all smokers start before the age of 14. Eighty percent of all smokers have their first cigarette before age 18, 90% of all smokers begin before age 10.

Between one-third and one half of youth who try a cigarette will go on to become a daily smoker. Education is the first step in preventing our youth from becoming a commercial tobacco abuser. Your community can help in saving many Native youth from dying from a preventable death.

Did you know that in a recent survey American Indians and Alaska Native youth were more likely than youths from other racial/ethnic groups to smoke cigarettes during the last month. Studies vary in estimating the current American

Indian and Alaska Native youth smoking rate to be between 30% and 50%.

Nearly every adult who smokes (almost 90%) took his or her first puff at or before the age of 18. About 31% of American Indian and Alaska Native youth report having used some form of commercial tobacco in the last month. In a study of High school seniors, only 5% of those who smoked believed they would still be smoking two years later.

Children and teenagers make up the majority of all new smokers, and the tobacco industry's

advertising and promotion campaigns target young Native youth. Approximately 43% of young people who smoke as few as 3 cigarettes go on to become regular smokers.

Cigarette smoking by young people leads to serious health problems, including cough and phlegm production, an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness (both performance and endurance), adverse changes in blood cholesterol levels, and reduced rates of lung growth and functions.

The Muscogee Nation Tobacco Prevention Street Team can help your community educate your youth about the dangers of Commercial Tobacco abuse. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program is seeking additional members in 2005 for the Muscogee Nation



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program staff wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Street Teams.

Youth between 14 and 18 years old are encouraged to join the MCN Street Teams at no cost to them.

This program is a youth led operation in hopes of reaching other Native American youth in their communities during youth events, such as ball tournaments, rodeos, and festivals.

For further information about the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program or Street Teams, call 1 800-782-8291, ext. 285 or ext. 277 or email at Cynthia.coachman@mail.lhs.gov.

From the desk of Sara Gibson

Welcome to the first piece dedicated specifically to gaming. Many of you have asked for a gaming section and we are pleased to respond to your request. In the upcoming months, we hope that you find the new section beneficiary in finding out exciting events happening, not only in your local gaming facility area, but in all gaming facilities throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as well as important issues facing gaming nationally throughout Indian country.

There are many questions and concerns people have when it comes to gaming. They range from a variety of topics, such as: "What is the difference between Class I, Class II and Class III gaming?" to more specific questions such as "Now that SQ 712 has passed, how does that effect me as a Native American?" and "What kind of direct impact will it have on the economic development of our Native people?" We hope to be able to provide answers and insight to these kinds of topics or at least be able to provide access to resources who would have a better explanation.

With this being the first issue with a gaming section, we will examine basic definitions. When the discussion of differences between classes of gaming are brought up there is often times confusion. To make things easier, we have provided actual definitions used by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act provided by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Class I gaming is defined as traditional Indian gaming and social gaming for minimal prizes. Regulatory authority over Class I gaming is vested exclusively in tribal governments.

Class II gaming is defined as the game of chance commonly known as bingo, whether or not electronic or computer. Class II gaming also includes non-banded card games, that is, games that are played exclusively against other players rather than against the house or a player acting as a bank. The Act specifically excludes slot machines or electronic facsimiles of any game of chance from the definition.

The state of Oklahoma uses Class II gaming amenities at the present time but change is forthcoming.

Finally the definition of *Class III* gaming. In truth, the definition is extremely broad. Made simple, it includes all forms of gaming that are neither Class I nor II. Generally, Class III is often referred to as casino style gaming and what individuals would see in a Las Vegas Casino. As a compromise, the Act restricts Tribal authority to conduct Class III gaming.

We hope this has made cleared up any questions you may have had regarding actual definitions. Please send other questions we can address in next month's issue.

Creek Nation Casino employee wins a 2005 Chevrolet Pick-Up at state conference

OKMULGEE — LeAnn High recently won a 2005 Chevrolet Colorado SE Pick-Up at the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association's 10th Annual Conference and Tradeshow.

The Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, made up of gaming tribes in Oklahoma, held their annual conference on Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center.

Each year at the closing ceremonies, various door prizes are awarded. The prizes range from televisions to items such as cars or vacation getaways. This year the grand prize was a midnight blue, fully loaded 2005 Chevrolet Colorado SE Pick-Up. On hand to witness High win and receive her early Christmas present were about 30 other Creek Nation Casino employees from various other casinos throughout Creek Nation.

"When they said the winner was from Creek Nation Casino and then said my name, I just couldn't believe it," said High. "I jumped up and down, screamed and practically ran over a person running up to the front."

Other Creek Nation winners were National Council Representative Sue Johnson and Brodie Rosbrugh. Johnson won a DVD/VHS combo and Rosbrugh won 2 tickets to an Oklahoma City Blazer Ice Hockey game.

This was the first year Creek Nation was an exclusive sponsor of the annual conference and tradeshow. The visibility of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was greater than before, with such things as vendors, informational booths, shuttles, and golf clubs.



Okmulgee and Tulsa Creek Nation Casino officers doing their part to help during Thanksgiving

OKMULGEE — Thanksgiving is a time to not only be thankful for the many blessings one receives, but it is also a time when people realize the holiday season is upon us and find ways in assisting others who may be less fortunate than ourselves.

The Security Officers at both the Okmulgee and Tulsa Creek Nation Casino completed a task some would have thought to be impossible. Through generous donations of food and money, officers were able to produce Thanksgiving food baskets for the Native American citizens in the Tulsa, Okmulgee, and surrounding communities.

Each basket was filled with a variety of items, such as beans, corn, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, rolls, instant mashed potatoes, gravy and even a turkey with its own roaster pan.

The venture was a huge success. The security officers from the Tulsa facility were able to provide 20 baskets to families, while Okmulgee officers provided an additional 10.

The basket delivering began in the early morning and continued throughout the day. According to the officers, the expressions on the faces of the people made everything worth it.

While each area casino had their own ways of generating the list of recipients whom received the baskets, the Tulsa facility stated, with the assistance of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center, they hope to double the number of baskets for Christmas.

On a side note, the Tulsa facility would also like to express their sincere gratitude to the Gaming operations Authority Board for allowing them to purchase the 2004 Dodge Durangos that were much needed and used to deliver baskets.



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department implements the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP. This federally funded program assists low income Native American households who reside in the Muscogee Creek Nation boundaries.

The program provides assistance with heating expenses during the heating season, Nov 1 - March 31, and electric expenses during the cooling season, May 1 - September 30. An applicant who has received assistance through the LIHEAP program, or any other program for heating expenses, they cannot assist with heating expenses until the next heating season. The amount of assistance is not based on the amount of the bill, but goes according to household size, income, and energy source.

Basic requirements are the head of the household or that person's spouse must have at least a CDIB from a federally recognized tribe. The household must meet the income guidelines as identified in the grant application. Applicants must reside within the service area. Applicants must also submit documentation to verify the household meets the requirements, such as CDIB or tribal membership card, Social Security cards for each household member, income or the lack of income for each household member 18 years of age or older, and a heating/electric bill or invoice in the applicant or spouse's name. Other documentation may be required in cases of guardianship, legal custody, etc.

Once any applicant qualifies for the program, he/she will receive notice prior to the regularly scheduled walk in appointment date. This allows the applicant to participate in a pre-application process and avoid the rush of applications during the walk in process.

From time to time, LIHEAP participants are eligible to receive other benefits such as blankets, heater, and air conditioner units if funding is available.

Pack Tests dates announced

OKMULGEE — The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Fire Suppression Program, will be administering Pack Tests on the following dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29.

All pack-testing will begin at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. Tests may be cancelled due to inclement weather, such as rain, sleet, or snow. The tests will be administered at Harmon Stadium or the Claude Cox Omniplex. EMS will be present during all testing times.

The Pack Tests requires an individual to carry a minimum of 45 lbs, on his or her back, for three miles in 45 minutes or less.

New recruits must show proof of tribal affiliation and pick up a medical examination form at the Fire Management Office. Medical exams must be filled out before they individuals take the pack test. Qualified applicants will be sent to Ada for rookie Wildland Firefighting Training Jan. 31 through Feb. 4.

The Fire Management office is located at 1006 East

Eufaula Street in Okmulgee. For additional information call 752-0604 and ask for Jason or Willie.

Firefighters will need to complete a refresher course "Standards for Survival." The dates for this course are to be announced. These two requirements must be met in order for each individual to be available for the 2005 Fire Season.

Language Institute looking for teachers and students

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Institute is planning and scheduling Creek Language classes for all the various communities within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

These community Creek language classes will begin in February and continue throughout the year until each community has had the opportunity to host a class.

Each class will be team taught by a group of Creek teachers utilizing curriculum ideas that were part of an earlier training session. These curriculum development concepts are the driving force behind the classes and make for a highly energetic and fast paced learning experience.

Ideas from Total Physical Response (TPR), role-playing, games, Immersion-style, and vocabulary repetition are used freely in the class lessons. Each of the various teachers will use their own style of teaching method, all as a part of a highly engaging class setting. All of this will be combined into a unified whole that will require a complete day to present.

Immersion-like, the main focus of the classes, will be seen in the lessons that the teachers will present for each section. Role-playing, physical activities, and games will be conducted in the language to give the students a feel for how the Creek Language is used and how it sounds in a naturalistic setting.

Learning will take place subconsciously as the teachers have the students participate in each activity. Even lunchtime is included in this framework, so that when it is time to eat the food will be named and the actions associated with eating will be shown in Creek. A full day's complement of activities will be scheduled with the students hav-

ing some take home work to finish study on their own.

The Mvskoke Language Institute, in addition to scheduling the community classes, is also looking for interested Creek speakers to tryout this immersion-style of teaching the language.

If you would like to be involved and have a desire to present the Creek Language to the next upcoming generations of Creek citizens, contact Ted Isham at (918) 756-2324.

Cherokee Basket Classes

MUSKOGEE — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum will be hosting basket making classes, including a class in making traditional Cherokee Honeysuckle Baskets on Jan. 7, 8, and 9. The cost is \$75 per person, with all materials included.

Also included within the class is a field trip to gather honeysuckle, as well as the processing it, dying it, and making the basket in the traditional way and taking home a completed basket. Class size is limited. For more information call 1 (877) 587-4297.

Okmulgee Indian Community swears in new secretary

OKMULGEE — On Dec. 13 Pat Williams was sworn in as the new secretary of the Okmulgee Indian Community Center's Executive Board.

Williams was previously employed with the Okmulgee Health Center as a dental therapist. She worked there for twenty years until a knee injury caused her to retire from work.

Williams returned to school and received an Associates Degree in Pre-Education and Secondary Education from Oklahoma State University in Okmulgee and a Bachelors Degree in Social Services from Northeastern State University.

She has been involved with the Okmulgee Indian Community Center for at least 10 years prior to her nomination. The community members also celebrated their annual Christmas party and conducted their monthly meeting.

Veterans officer sends care packages to soldiers in Iraq

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Officer Ken Davis, along with Second Chief Alfred Berryhill and Fred Harlan, sent care packages to the soldiers stationed in Iraq. The packages were sent out to the 120th engineer combat battalion out of Okmulgee.

"Fred Harlan is a very unique and patriotic individual," said Davis. "He witnessed the other committed company withdraw its support for the care packages. Without hesitation, Harlan rushed in and paid for all contents and shipping to make sure our soldiers in combat were well taken care of. Because of what he done for our citizens, I would do business with him anytime!"



Yeager Headstart

3 Year Old Class

Dear Santa:

I want presents. I want a spiderman blanket. Come over my house. Where are you? I think you might be building toys.

Your friend, Chad L.

Dear Santa:

Come home and bring toys.

Your friend, Kendra F.

Dear Santa:

Willis is my Santa Clause. My mama is Jan. I'm Tonja. I got a sucker out of it. Give me toys and be my friends.

Your friend, Tonja Landreth

Dear Santa:

Bring me a whole lot of toys. I seen Dr. Phil on T.V. He likes toys. I like toys. I want two baby dolls.

Your friend, Erin J.

Dear Santa:

Please bring me some toys, toys, toys,

Your friend, Shevon B.

Dear Santa:

Bring me some candy, two candies, and toys.

Your friend, Brysy G.

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a Barbie, Barbie Shoes, Barbie Clothes and Barbie toys. That's it!

Your friend, Maniyah A.

Dear Santa:

Would you bring be a Ninja Turtle, Bike, Spiderman Web Action, Spiderman walkie talkies, and a Spiderman Kit.

Your friend, Nathan F.

Dear Santa:

I would like for you to bring me a bike motorcycle.

Your friend, Cheyenne Mc.

Dear Santa:

I like Santa. I like Santa's elves. I like Santa's reindeer. I want a Dora pull thing that you pull people. Bring my sissy something but she always pulls my hair. I love you!

Your friend, Brenna J.

Dear Santa:

Mommy's at school. Daddy's at work. I at school. Get my write. (paper, pencils, crayons) I want markers. I like to write. I want you at my house.

Your friend, Kassandra R.

Dear Santa:

I want a Santa Clause Christmas!

Your friend, Brandsyn G.

Dear Santa:

Santa see you at my house. Bring toys and I don't know.

Your friend, Dixie J.

Dear Santa:

I would like for you to bring me a Book, uh, hum!

Your friend, Victoria

Dear Santa:

My daddy there. (at my house) My mama's going to pick me up later. Come to my house, my mom will be there.

Your friend, Kyle A.

Dear Santa:

My name is Ehole. I would like for you to bring my Shrek II and Sponge Bob, and makeup. I live at my Grandma Martha's house.

Your friend, Ehole Y.

Dear Santa:

I would like some crayons for Christmas.

Your friend, Christian P.

Dear Santa:

School bus! My school bus! Mama that school bus.

Your friend, Antonio W.

Dear Santa:

Toys!

Your friend, James U.

4 Year Old Class

Dear Santa:

I want Ice Cream, Cake, vegetables for Christmas, and Angelica car and doll from Rugrats.

Love, Takia Robinson

Dear Santa:

I want Power Rangers for Christmas.

Love, Ky Lowe

Dear Santa:

I want a monster truck and toys for Christmas.

Love, Raymond Thomas

Dear Santa:

I want a bathing suit, new cup, strawberry girl, and a doctor's suit with a hat.

Love Angel Hartley

Dear Santa:

I want a Power Ranger girl, baby dolls, and a big car for Christmas.

Love, Mercedes Sam

Dear Santa:

I want a brats Katz car, Barbie or Cinderella Shoes, bow and arrow, and 2 computers. I would like to have these for Christmas.

Love, Denys Davis

Dear Santa:

What I want for Christmas is a four wheeler, motorcycle, punching bag and gloves.

Love, Kotcha Moppin

Dear Santa:

I want a Barbie house, Barbie swimming pool, Barbie shoes, and Barbie crayons.

Love Esse Yahola

Dear Santa:

I would like a Barbie jeep, Bratz guitar, Power Puff shirt, and gloves. Also Barbie crayons, Barbie, and Barbie swim pool.

Love, Erin Rogers

Dear Santa:

I would like a trampoline for Christmas.

Love, We-Cate Lowe

Dear Santa:

I've been a good boy this year. What I would like for Christmas is a new four wheeler, and a gun.

Love, Colton Thompson

Dear Santa:

I want you to bring me a swimming pool, dragon toy, new house, new shoes, and a Power Ranger toy.

Love, Christian Moppin

Dear Santa:

I want a crayon, Barbie, chairs, glue, and markers for Christmas.

Love, Salina Underwood

Dear Santa:

I want a Christmas tree, Spiderman, and a Spiderman suit.

Love, Jaylon Thetford

Dear Santa:

I want baby dolls and that's all.

Love, Monica Smith

Dear Santa:

I want baby dolls, kitty cat, blanket for baby, and a dragon.

Love, Amanda Smith

Dear Santa:

I like trucks, cars, tigers, and dinosaurs.

Love, Dezmon Hobia

Dear Santa:

I want a G.I. Joe, Hulk, Spiderman, all for Christmas.

Love, Zaydian Lamey

Dear Santa:

I want a Barbie doll, Princess toy, Barbie car, bratz pad, and necklace and bracelet.

Love, Angelina Scott

November District Court filings

Protective Orders:

- Angelique Brady v. Bo Allen Judd
- Amy Wilson v. Richard Williamson
- Richard Wilson v. Amy Wilson
- Melissa Pigeon v. Virgil Sanders, Jr.
- Elizabeth Edwards v. Bobby Edwards

Criminal - Felonies:

- MCN v. Stanton Brooks
- Poss. of Illegal Drugs

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN v. Little Jim Squirrel

Larceny

Traffic:

- MCN v. Chad Stewart
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Ben Cooper
- Transporting Open Container
- MCN Ray Johnson
- Oopen Receptacle Containing Alcohol
- MCN v. Michael Hammer
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Michael Hammer
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Julias Ball
- Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

- Carolyn Woodfork v. Herman Woodfork
- Cheryl Haney v. Michael Haney
- Minnife Delgadd v. Raal Delgadd
- Heather Barber v. Jonathan Barber
- Thomas Pickering v. La Ginea Pickering
- April Taylor v. Marlon Taylor

Civil/ Small Claims:

- Phillip Glass v. MCN Tulsa Casino et, al.
- Complaint
- Mulligan Enterprises v. Washington Cummings
- Foreign Judgment
- Martin Tiger v. Kathryn Grayson
- Petition for Establish Paternity
- Lille Hinkle v. Marie Smith Hinkle
- Petition for Grandparents Visitation
- In the Matter Of: Sydney Barnett
- Name Change
- Security Finance v. Patricia Post oak
- Foreign Judgment
- Jason Schultz v. Amanda Littlefield
- Petition to Establish Paternity
- In the Matter of: Kyla Nichole Bearbow
- Name Change
- Royal Finance v. Alice Locust
- Small Claims
- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Suzanne Franklin
- Foreign Judgment

Second

continued from page 3

They would then go to war; and whichever Nation should first cover its pole, from top to bottom, with the scalps of their enemies, should be the oldest."

"They all tried, but the Cussitaws covered their pole first, and so thickly that it was hidden from sight. Therefore, they were looked upon, by the whole Nation, as the oldest. The Chickasaws covered their pole next; then the Atilamas [Alabamas]; but the Obikaws [Abihkas] did not cover their pole higher than to the knee."

"At that time there was a bird of large size, blue in color, with a long tail, and swifter than an eagle, which came every day and killed and ate their people. They made an image in the shape of a woman, and placed it in the way of this bird. The bird carried it off, and kept it a long time, and then brought it back. They left it alone, hoping it would bring something forth. After a long time, a red rat came forth from it, and they believed the bird was the father of the rat. They took council with the rat how to destroy its father. Now the bird had a bow and arrows; and the rat gnawed the bowstring, so that the bird could not defend itself, and the people killed it. They called this bird the King of Birds. They think the eagle is also a great King; and they carry its feathers when they go to War or make Peace; the red mean War; the white, Peace. If an enemy approaches with white feathers and a white mouth, and cries like an eagle, they dare not kill him."

"After this they left that place, and came to a white foot-path. The grass and everything around were white; and they plainly perceived that people had been there. They crossed the path, and slept near there. Afterward they turned back to see what sort of path that was, and who the people were who had been there, in the belief that it might be better for them to follow that path. They went along it to a creek called *Coloose-hutche*, that is Coloose-creek, because it was rocky there and smoked."

"They crossed it, going toward the sunrise, and came to a people and town named Coosaw. Here they remained four years. The Coosaws complained that they were preyed upon by a wild beast, which they called man-eater or lion, which lived in a rock."

"The Cussitaws said they would try to kill the beast. TO BE CONTINUED.

Mvskoke History Series: WEAPONS & TOOLS

By
Patrick E. Moore

Paleontologists have discovered Pre-Colombian cutting weapons close to modern day Cactus Hill, Virginia in archaeological excavations of an ancient Native American campsite. This North American site has yielded ancient weapons that were hand made, then lost or misplaced by the Native American owner/craftsman and radiocarbon dated to be more than 18,000 years old. Hand crafted arrow points have been found at Fell's Cave, Chile, that

were lost or misplaced by the owner over 10,800 years ago. These early cutting weapons were constructed using a technique that has been attributed to a people who inhabited the southwestern portion Europe that is present day southern France and northern Spain. These ancient Europeans had inhabited this area for millenniums until 20,000 years ago when they mysteriously disappeared.

Where did they go? Migrating humans traveling from the European continent long enough ago to lose cutting weapons at a location in present day Virginia 18,000 years ago must surely have been traveling, on foot or by water for several thousand years before camping at the Cactus Hill site.

Recent human DNA studies reveal a special characteristic found in the DNA of some modern northeastern Native Americans that does not appear in the DNA of today's Asian population, but this special characteristic does appear in the DNA of some modern Europeans. Was there a migration from Europe to the Americas? Some in the scientific community now doubt the only migration to the Americas was from Asia 14,000 years ago and now believe there were some arrivals to the east coast of North America over 30,000 years ago.

Pre-Columbian cutting weapons and tools were essential for human survival. These tools came in many shapes and forms and were made out of many different natural materials.

Scrapers with blades resembling chisels were made out of basanite, chert, jasper or agate. In its simplest form the scraper was hand held, later padding was added and still later the scraper was affixed to a wooden, bone or horn handle. Early North American craftsmen developed and refined hide tanning by using these ancient scrapers.

Cutting tools were also used for sawing and when crafted for use as a saw the tool had a pronounced serrated edge and this tool in the hands of an ancient craftsman could produce some rather remarkable products out of wood, bone, horn, soft stone and sea shells.

The process of making a knife 30,000 years ago was indeed a tedious task that tested the most skilled Native American craftsman. Many different materials were used to construct knives. The Native American sharpened bone, horn, copper and some iron. Large animal teeth, aquatic shells and harder woods were also fashioned with an edge for use as a knife.

Perhaps the most difficult material for the Native American to work with was obsidian. The craftsman would spend hours and sometimes days to produce one dagger. The process required flaking the obsidian along natural lines within the stone by striking or flaking the rock with another hard rock or bone until the desired outline was obtained with a razor sharp edge. Some obsidian blades were 20 inches long with a width at the handle of 2 to 3 inches. The handle was wrapped in deerskin or set in a wooden or bone handle to prevent the owner from cutting his hands. The few obsidian knives existing today are more 12,000 years old. These obsidian knives are priceless records of ancient Native American history and today only exhibited in the finest museums.

Long before the arrival of modern European colonists (1492 A.D.) Native Americans had begun to hammer copper nuggets. Copper nuggets had been exposed by the last ice age glacier when the earth warmed 9,000 to 8,000 years ago, retreating ice also allowed Native American to repopulate northern areas of North America as the land turned into a green wetlands.

The Native American metal smith worked copper acquired by

trade with people from the Great Lakes and copper was a familiar trade good as far south as Mississippi and east to the Atlantic Ocean. Copper spear points, axes and knives were traded throughout the Mississippi River area and its tributaries. The copper weapon could be fashioned with a much narrower and longer double edged blade, but copper had the disadvantage of dulling rather quickly.

Treasured knives were often carried in a sheath hung around the owners neck or in a flap of buck skin fashioned in the warriors battle shirt. Knife sheaths were very elaborately decorated and the weapons carefully cared for by their owners. The rank of a warrior was often denoted by the knife and scabbard he carried.

Native Americans over the aeons developed many oaths involving the knife. When in council, after a warrior had made his speech he would remove his knife from its sheath, hold the weapon in his right hand, point it toward the sky and say to all present, "I have spoken the truth." The warrior would then draw his knife between his lips, touching the blade with his tongue and the oath taking was complete.

There were certain Native American tribes with secret warrior societies whose members would only use a knife in battle. Ceremonial rituals associated with the "Knife Warrior Societies" were very complex and involved throwing and catching of knives bare-handed. Some rituals included the trial of sleeping on a thorn bed while being beaten with the flat edge of a knife. Few warriors were willing to endure initiation into these "knife warrior societies."

The "Knife Warrior" went into battle armed only with his knife, his battle path was straight to the enemy and he would not retreat. The "Knife Warrior's" reputation for fierceness in battle often sent the enemy into full retreat and added to the already folklore legends of these fearless and time honored warriors.

The "Knife Warrior's" fighting technique was designed to utterly strike terror into the enemy camp, for the enemy knew combat with these fearsome warriors was to hand to hand and the "Knife Warrior" would not surrender nor retreat.

Ancient Muscogee warriors of this class would often enter battle wearing only a loin cloth, their bodies painted with red and black paint, occasionally yellow. The use of body and face paint was for rare occasions and signified the great importance of the event.

Colors used increased the warriors power and also intimidated the enemy. Red was the color of war and the "Red Sticks" often painted their faces, throats, necks, wrists and back of their hands red. The handle of the "Red Stick Warrior's" knife was red and the owner warrior had taken an irrevocable oath to battle and destroy the enemy.

Black face paint was common and often used to compliment red. Black paint was considered a living color. Green paint sometimes applied under a warriors eyes to help his night vision. Horizontal and vertical lines of red paint around the warrior's eyes improved his vision and attracted game. Red face paint was on occasion used to attract the female, however the use of red paint to often was thought to create mental problems.

Yellow paint was the color of death and its use was confined to very special warriors and never applied in excess.

Pre-Columbian Muscogee men were elaborately tattooed with the "Sun" always placed in the center of their chest. Experienced warriors often had the image of a war club tattoo on their right shoulder.

by Joshua Slane

TULSA — Christmas is fast approaching and for many people, that means gathering together with family and friends, exchanging gifts under the tree, and time off of school or work. But to some people, Christmas is more, more than just a break that is meant to be spent with the people one cares about, it's about helping others, and it's about showing love.

That's what the Home Builder's Association continues to do, year after year, because you see, Home Builders brings Christmas to alot of young people. Though I guess that's not entirely accurate, more it brings the kids to Christmas.

These kids are all the students at Ryal school, over 70 of them and they've been doing it for better than twenty years. I know, I was one of the kids, starting in

1987 and continuing for my nine years at Ryal, until my last Christmas at Ryal in 1995 (having gone on to graduate from the 8th grade in May of 1996).

The day of the trip to homebuilders is a magical day that can never start early enough. It's one day of the school year that students usually wake up long before their parents. Were it up to the students, there's little doubt that the school would be full of kids by 7 a.m., none wanting to even think of the tragedy that missing this joyous occasion would bring.

But it's not up to them. The bus schedule and the parents' schedules run as normal. So the school fills up as it does on any other day, with the exception that there's no one sick, no one absent, on the day of the trip to homebuilders. Also, hanging in the air is a nearly palatable sense of longing, anxiousness, and excitement. Kids lucky enough to have gone before tell the younger ones how it will be. Those who have never went can scarcely believe their ears, for what they hear is far too good to be true, only this time, this one time out of all the times, it's not.

Students are then called to a meeting in the gym by school principal Mr. Hicks. He gives them the same important speech he always does, no running, pushing, shoving, always say thank you, stay with your sponsor, and be polite. They then board the bus by grades, Kindergartners going first and sitting up front, and so on until the 8th graders, who get the oh so important back seats of the bus, as is their right by seniority.

The bus ride up to Tulsa is a magical event in and of itself. It seems like you're waiting forever to get there, the bus is moving so slow, and it takes hours. However, once you're there, it seems as though you've just left.

After all, you've been talking with your friends about what you're going to buy, about how much pizza you're going to eat, and of course, what you're going to do over Christmas break.

The first destination is Wal-Mart at 41st and Memorial. The kids are lead off the bus by grades, kindergartners going first, and they are met by volunteers from the Home Builder's Association, who then present them

with envelopes stuffed with cash. They also serve as an escort around the store, helping with things that might be out of reach, and ensuring none of the children get lost.

And we're not talking a small amount of money. It's not surprising for the envelopes to hold fifty dollars. A gift to the students to spend however they desire. Even so, it's not unheard of, indeed

not entirely uncommon to see volunteers slipping money out of their wallets or purses to supplement their child's envelope. Money that they won't get reimbursed, and we're not talking rich people, just average, run of the mill, working class, Christmas love spreading people.

However, here it's quite possible the children of Ryal School would surprise many of you. Most of them don't run towards the toys, or even the electronics sections first. They instead go around and pick out what gifts they want to get for their family first. The Christmas of their loved ones being more important than their own. Only afterwards do they then shop for themselves.

After the children have shopped for an hour and a half to two hours, they eventually have spent their money and wind up in the snack bar, where pop and popcorn is provided to them and their sponsors. The store's employees then lead them in some Christmas carols, and the kids once again head toward their bus. But on the way out each kid is presented with a small bag of treats, including a game and a stuffed animal, along with the prerequisite chocolate candies.

The bus then drives over to the Home Builders building and the party starts. More pizza than anyone could ever eat is waiting for the kids as they, remem-

bering Mr. Hicks's warning, walk into the building as quickly as they can. As the pizza is being eaten and the pop flows, a good time is had by all.

After the pizza is eaten, some children alternate with people from the Home Builders to lead Christmas Carols. However, the children's voices still carry a note of anticipation, there's still one very important thing to happen this trip.

And then it does, Santa arrives with Mrs. Clause following close behind. A reindeer is with them, as are two elves. The kids faces light up as they see Santa walking into the room, and doubtly so at the sight of the reindeer. Mr. and Mrs. Clause, along with the reindeer, who unfortunately isn't Rudolf, make their way to the stage.

Santa finds his seat on the bench, but there's a problem, Home Builders still has alot of presents to give away, so Mr. and Mrs. Clause help out, calling each student up one at a time to sit with Santa and get their gifts.

And these gifts are nothing to sneeze at either. Most of the boys got a CD player with a built in AM/FM radio, a book on paper airplanes, and a few got a 10 in 1 portable television, radio, mosquito repellant, flashlight, and many other things in one, camping tool. The girl's gifts were more along the lines of a stuffed animal, and an age appropriate gift, along with several smaller items.

Santa has one more surprise in store for Ryal's youth, a collection of animals who help him celebrate Christmas, including a pair of rabbits, a pair of birds, and an alligator, who looks suspiciously like Rudolf.

After the kids meet his animal helpers, it's time for Santa, and for Ryal, to begin the trek home. The bus ride home is a time of excitement, everyone knows what they have and can't wait to play with it, but everything's stowed away and there's not enough room on the bus. When the bus finally arrives at Ryal, and the bags of presents are unloaded and passed back out, it's time to head home, ending the day of

fun, while Home Builders awaits most of the children again the next year. The fun they bring lasts all year long.

So in parting, all the kids who are attending Ryal now, and all who have done so in the past, wish to give a huge thank you to Mrs. Creekmore, and all of the Home Builders Association for the wonderful times, gifts, and perhaps most importantly, memories.



Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference welcomes new bishop

OKLAHOMA CITY — On November 7, the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference officially welcomed and installed Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. Bishop Hayes was elected and appointed to the Oklahoma Area this past July during the South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

Nearly four hundred OIMC members, representing every region and dozens of churches, attended the event, which was held in the Angie Smith Chapel on the campus of Oklahoma City University.

Prior to the service, a meal was shared by all those in attendance in honor of Bishop Hayes and his family. The Oklahoma City area metro churches assisted tremendously with the event by preparing many of the dishes that were served and by providing the volunteers to assist people as they came through the lines. Billy Hooton UMC, Angie Smith UMC, Mary Lee Clark UMC, Norman First American UMC, and Nagawee UMC each contributed to the evening.

This service marked the first time the OIMC conducted its very own installation service, which included conference leaders and members from all across the state.



"It was great to have the opportunity to welcome Bishop Hayes and his family to OIMC through this particular service," Wilson said. "It was important for the people of the OIMC to show Bishop and his family who we are as Native people through our fellowship and worship."

Members of the conference who participated in the service of worship were asked to dress in their tribal regalia. In addition individuals representing various ministries of the conference were selected to present Bishop Hayes with the signs of the Episcopal Ministry. Rae Kernell, Seminole of Billy Hooton, was selected to represent youth, Kaycee Kernell, Seminole-Creek of Pawnee Indian was selected to represent the Children; while Jason and Lynetta Eyachabbe of Norman First American represented young adults.

Female youth representatives from each region also had the opportunity to perform the Lord's prayer in sign language. Each youth was dressed in tribally distinct regalia representing primarily the Choctaw, Kiowa, Osage, and Delaware Tribes.

"It was important for all of us as members of this conference to demonstrate to Bishop Hayes who we are as Native people and as United Method-

ists," stated Rev. Chebon Kernell, Director of Interpretation and Promotion.

Also during the service blankets, were given to Bishop Hayes, his son Ryan and wife Dee, as a gesture of appreciation as they begin their ministry in the Oklahoma area.

The sermon for the evening was given by Bishop Hayes. "We can there, from Here!" was the title of the words of inspiration that was given by the Bishop. In his sermon Bishop Hayes expressed his regret that at the last Council of Bishops meeting there was no Native Bishop to speak on behalf of Indigenous peoples of this country. In addition, Bishop Hayes stressed that there is indeed a brighter day ahead for the people of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

"On behalf of the conference we want to thank every one who attended and helped out with the evening" stated Rev. Wilson. "I was overjoyed at how many people from across the conference came to the event. We planned for 200-250 persons and we estimate that at least 400 persons were present. I received an e-mail from a lay person in the OIMC who told me how great the event was. She said the event was very much us, as people of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference."

Church Events

100th Anniversary Celebration

WEWOKA — Wewoka Indian United Methodist Church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on December 19th beginning with worship at 10:30 a.m. led by recently elected Bishop Robert Hayes.

The morning worship will be followed by lunch and an afternoon of sharing stories and testimonies from past ministers and church members. The church will observe its annual Christmas Program at 6:30 p.m. The church is located one mile north of Yeager.

The church began in 1904 at a location north of the current church site. This church has served the community of Yeager and Holdenville with faithful service.

We cordially invite everyone to attend this historic occasion.

For further information contact Anne Marshall at (405) 328-0022.

Annual Christmas Program

HENRYETTA — Little Cussetah Indian Methodist Church will be having their Annual Christmas Program on December 19 at 7 p.m.

The program includes: a Christmas Play; visit from Santa and Christmas Candy Sacks.

Everyone welcome to attend.

The church is located from Highway 75 north of Henryetta and south of Okmulgee take the Wilson Road exit going west (under the railroad tracks). At the first four way stop, turn north and go one mile. The church is on the next side of the road.

New Year's Eve Gospel Singing

MUSKOGEE — First Indian Baptist Church will be having a New Year's Eve Gospel Singing on December 31st from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m.

The gospel singing groups include: Gospel Lights; Generations; The Newtons; Petit Family; Hammer Family; Friends of Jesus; Lakeside Singers and others. Hosted by the Gospel Lights and The Newtons.

The emcee will be Herb Billy and Curtis Kinney. Everyone welcome.

For more information call (918) 682-4703 or (918) 652-9959.

Church holds dinner in honor of Barnoski

OAKHURST — The Barnoski/Peak families

gathered at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for the Thanksgiving holiday in honor of Corporal Phillip (Bugsy) Barnoski and his family.

He is married to the former Nicole K. Peak and has two sons, Damon and Lauren.

Corporal Barnoski is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. stationed at MCAS, New River, North Carolina. Barnoski will deploy to Iraq in March, 2005.

He is the son of Harold and Shirley Lena McBride of Muskogee. The event was hosted by Tracy Peak.



Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the September 25, regular session.

September 25, Regular session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (19-2-0) TR 04-100, confirming the nomination of **Ken R. Davis** as the office of the Veterans Affairs Services Administrator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek; **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

- approved (14-7-0) TR 04-104, confirming the nomination of **June Mustari** to serve on the Gaming operations authority board;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Hufft** arrived before vote was taken;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 04-105, authorizing the speaker to execute a special counsel contract between the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and **Geoffery M. Standingbear**, P.C., attorney at law;

representative **Parish** arrived before vote was taken;

- approved (21-1-1) TR 04-106, confirming the nomination of **Christine Lewis McIntosh** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek;

abstain were: **Ade**, Tukvptce;

- return to committee (23-0-0) TR 04-108, approving the selection of contractors for the rehabilitation of one (1) mutual help home and one (1) vacant mutual help home;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-110, establishing a Muscogee (Creek) Nation nurse investment and scholarship act and appropriating funds to fund purchase of 10 slots within the registered nurse program at OSU-Okmulgee;

- approved as amended (15-8-0) NCA 04-131, amending title 16, chapter four of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and amending and repealing certain laws to reorganize the existing

structure of lighthorse police;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**;

Speaker **Yahola** relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Richard Berryhill** to address NCA 04-137;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-137, authorizing a special appropriation to the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard to participate in the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indians;

Second Speaker **Berryhill** turned the Chair back over to Speaker **Thomas Yahola**;

- approved as amended (18-4-1) NCA 04-141, authorizing a special appropriation to the Mvskoke elder council to attend and participate in the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.;

voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Wind** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-145, appropriating funds the purchase of a mineral interest on tribal property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma;

- approved (21-2-0) NCA 04-146, amending NCA 04-035 (a law of the Muscogee establishing the executive office reorganization act of 2004 and repealing NCA 96-18 (establishing the executive office reorganization act of 1996) and amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation code annotated (MCNCA) Title 21, § 2-102 entitled "appointment and term of office") as amended by NCA 04-055 and NCA 04-059;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek and **Wind**, Okfuskee;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-148, authorizing a special appropriation for the fabrication and installation of sixteen (16) approved signing locations for entering and leaving Muscogee (Creek) Nation by Oklahoma Department of transportation;

- approved to postpone (18-5-0) NCA 04-149, authorizing a special appropriation to the Morris Indian Baptist church for the completion of the church;

voting no were: **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-150, revising the FY 2003 Indian housing plan as approved by NCA 03-123 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2003 Indian Housing plan) and approving the corresponding 2003 line item budgets;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-151, establishing

the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents and codifying said law in Title, 18, "Education," of the code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved to postpone (16-7-0) NCA 04-152, amending MCNCA, Title 21, § 3-103.J., and adding new law relating to management agreements;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

- approved as amended (22-0-1) NCA 04-155, enacting a reintegration code and codifying said law in title 23, "Health and Safety," of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-157, authorizing a special appropriation for a special counsel contract with **Geoffery M. Standingbear**, P.C., attorney at law;

September 9, Extraordinary session

Absent were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

No legislation was acted upon.

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee; and **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

This was a informative meeting to address State Question 712.

In attendance were: **George Tiger**, Creek District; **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Anthony Notaro**, McIntosh; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Lena Wind**, Okfuskee; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Billy Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce; **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce; **Ronald Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner; **David Stewart**, Chief Executive Officer Cherokee Enterprises; **Chad Smith**, Principal Chief Cherokee Nation; **Mike Bailey**, Assistant Chief Choctaw Nation; **Scott Meacham**, Director of State Finance, State of Oklahoma; **David Happ**, Executive Director Chickasaw Nation; **Jim Gray**, Principal Chief Osage Nation; **Kenneth Chambers**, Principal Chief Seminole Nation; **Montie Deer**, Attorney General Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

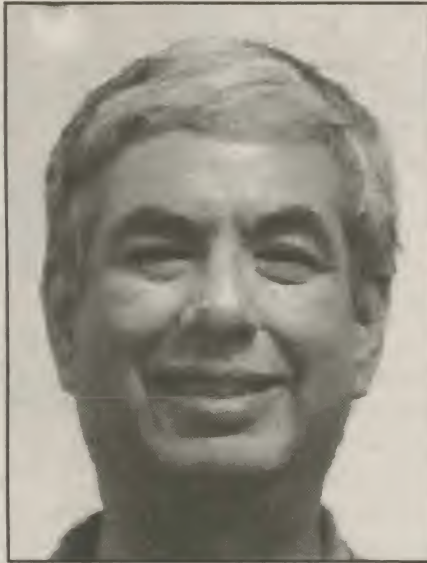
Tulsa District representative updates citizens

TULSA — First and foremost, I want to assure the tribal citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the National Council is working on your behalf and in your best interests.

I have been elected to serve as your council representative for three terms. I am currently serving on the Business & Governmental Committee, as well as the Fact Finding Committee.

I would like to recognize the leadership of the National Council that pertains to my duties as follows: Thomas Yahola – Speaker, Richard Berryhill – Second Speaker, David Nichols – Sergeant At Arms, Roger Barnett – Chairperson, B & G committee, George Tiger – Chairperson, Fact Finding Committee.

When we assumed office this term, the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and National Council Representatives were all administered sworn oaths to protect our Tribal Sovereignty. The state of Oklahoma is currently preying on Oklahoma's Indian Tribes to help fund programs that are under the state's control. They want us to pay a significant portion of our gaming and tobacco tax revenues to supplement their budget shortfall. To all Creek Nation Citizens, let me state that their Governor Brad Henry is the "reincarnation of Andrew Jackson". I will not



violate my sworn oath and vote to turn any Tribal funds over to the state regarding these issues.

As a Council representatives, I recognize the fact that you are my boss, and I am your servant. You elected me to represent your viewpoint and be your voice on the National Council. Accordingly, I work for my constituents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I welcome their calls, as well as yours regarding questions about the Creek Nation. My cell phone number is (918) 520-9154. I offer my services in the various areas of volunteering, providing rides, and donations. Just recently, I donated new office supplies in the form of a computer and a fax machine to the Oklahoma City Muscogee Creek Association to replace their outdated equipment.

I truly believe in authoring and sponsoring legislation that benefits our citizens in the following areas: education, health, social services, elderly nutrition, sound, viable, and feasible economic development projects, and increased veterans services for those who bravely defended and protected our individual freedom and rights. I cannot and will not support "pork barrel" legislation that benefits only a few.

We must all work together in a positive spirit of cooperation for our tribe to succeed. I pledge to all Tribal Citizens that I will serve you honorably and faithfully. I will work to the best of my ability with my fellow council representatives, the judicial, and the executive branches of our tribal government. I will monitor all branches of our government, programs and services and be vigilant on all the nation's resources, to do otherwise would be negligence on my part.

I sincerely wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God bless you and yours.

Mvto!

Ronald A. Cleghorn, Tulsa District Representative Seat C.

Soldier

continued from page 1

have a chance to watch it that late," said Wesley Montemayor, Leslie's father. "We were hoping to just get a recording of it and send it to her."

But long shot or not, Anderson decided it was worth a try. His tickets to the game had him sitting about 30 rows above the end zone. At halftime, he decided to move closer to the field in hopes of attracting a cameraman's attention.

"There was this nice guy who owned the whole front row, and he had one spare seat," Anderson said. "He said, 'This is your seat the rest of the game.'"

Soon, NFL Hall-of-Famer Lynn Swann, who was covering the game for ABC, walked by and saw Anderson. Swann called up to the production booth, and told them to get a cameraman to shoot the sign. And it happened.

Pretty soon Anderson was getting calls on his cell phone from family members in Oklahoma saying they'd seen him on TV.

And just as the game ended, he received word that his sign had made it halfway around the world. Leslie's mother called from Oklahoma to tell him that Leslie had awakened early to watch the game and had seen him on television.

"She's been having such a hard time the last month. It's starting to wear down on her emotionally and physically," Wesley Montemayor said. "So I think that this was the Lord's way of giving her some encouragement to help her get over the hump."

Even more, the event helped him feel like he and his daughter were together despite the miles between them.

"Just getting to share that little moment with her, knowing she saw it the same time we did — that was really special," he said.

For Anderson, though, the whole series of events seemed too good to be true.

"It's one of those events that you look back and think, man, you couldn't have planned that any better," Anderson said.



Pfc. Leslie Montemayor
120th Engineering
Combat Battalion
Company C
FORT SILL, OK.

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center
Chief Financial Officer

LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)

Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention Program

Coding Specialist - CNCH

Van Driver - Muskogee - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Twin Hills - ENP (Part time)

Van Driver - Weleetka - ENP (Part time)

LPN - Eufaula

Staff Dentist - Sapulpa

Administrative Assistant - Sapulpa

Dental Hygienist - Sapulpa / Eufaula

CHR Generalist

CEO - Creek Nation Health Care System

Billing Technician - Finance

Head Cook - Sapulpa

Accountant - Finance

Supervisory Accountant - General Ledger

Pharmacist - Okmulgee

Exercise Program Manager - Diabetes - Eufaula

Exercise Program Manager - Diabetes - Sapulpa

Data Coordinator - Diabetes

Case Manager - Diabetes Program

Radiology Technologist - Okemah

For more information, visit the Division of Health website at www.muscogeehealth.org or call (918) 756-3334.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Musko-

gee, Muskogee Document Imaging, and Farm Authority.

To apply come by the office, or download it in PDF format by going online at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov and clicking on the link to personnel then clicking on the link to MCN Trade and Commerce. Mail your applications to:

Muscogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce

P.O. Box 117

1010 East Eufaula

Okmulgee, OK. 74447

For more information please contact Alexis at 732-7764.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel

Teacher:

1 position - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Holdenville Child Care

1 position - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Child Care

6 positions - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Sapulpa Child Care

2 positions - Muskogee Creek Nation Tulsa Child Care

1 position - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Child Care

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent with four years related experience or C.D.A. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license.

Teacher's Aide:

3 positions - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Child Care

3 positions - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Sapulpa Child Care

3 positions - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Tulsa Child Care

3 positions - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Okemah Child Care

3 positions - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Holdenville Child Care

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent and prior experience working in a day care / child care center environment. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian

Preference. For more information on any of these jobs, or to apply please write to: Muskogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447. Or e-mail at jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or call at 732-7827.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community

Tobacco Coordinator:

Duties include:

Administer grant activities required by Creek Nation Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program.

Coordinate TCIC youth participation in at least two tobacco prevention activities during the year.

Coordinate TCIC member training in tobacco prevention / cessation methods.

Communicate program activities through a monthly article in the TCIC newsletter.

Plan and host two programs during the year where speakers give firsthand accounts about the effects of tobacco use.

Coordinate TCIC's prevention activities in conjunction with Creek Nation and Tulsa County health programs involved in similar efforts.

Compile tobacco prevention source materials from the internet, library, and other information sources.

Youth Coordinator:

Duties include:

Coordinates youth night,
Contacts youth and / or speakers for monthly meetings.

Purchases and prepares refreshments,
Plans entertainment,
Transports youth,
Works with Budget
Includes preparation
Spending and accountability

Requirements for jobs in TCIC include passing a background check, a valid Oklahoma driver's license and proof of Creek or other tribal citizenship. For more information, contact Richard Anderson at (918) 298-2464..

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Technology Services to begin work with U.S. Department of Energy

OKMULGEE – Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Technology Services Division was recently awarded a \$215,000 contract by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to replace fire detection system in various buildings at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, TX. Work is scheduled to begin on December 16.

Pantex Plant is America's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility. It is located 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, TX and centered on a 16,000 acre site. BWXT Pantex LLC is an independent company formed solely to manage the Pantex plant. The company draws from the operational excellence and experience of BWX Technologies, Honeywell and Bechtel National.

The Amarillo Area Office of the Department of Energy (AAO/DOE) is the on-site DOE presence responsible for directing Plant operations. DOE's Amarillo Area Office (AAO) is one of six area offices



Subcontractor Patton Construction milling ALZ runway

under jurisdiction of the Albuquerque Operations Office. Activated as a Branch Office in 1951, and upgraded to an Area Office in 1965, the office now has 78 employees and an annual payroll of more than \$4 million. The AAO is responsible for the successful accomplishment of DOE missions assigned to the Plant;

provides program management; and is accountable for critical functional areas that could affect the security, health, safety, and welfare of the general public. The AAO also administers the DOE management operating contract with BWXT Pantex.

"The Pantex facility has the highest level of security of any facility I have performed worked," said John Pritchard, Technology Services Operations Manager. "We are very honored to be selected to perform this contract." According to Michael Nalley, Director, "BWXT Pantex has a developed a 10 year \$750 Million capital improvement plan for the facility and we have a great opportunity to secure additional Department of Energy contracts."

MNBE Construction Services group is also negotiating a contract with BWXT Pantex for the application of a special flooring project at the plant. That contract is expected to be awarded at the end of December with a start date of January 2005.

Document Imaging Company joins efforts with Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce

OKMULGEE—On December 9, the Muscogee Document Imaging Company and the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce joined efforts in promoting tribal business in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at the Muscogee Document Imaging Company headquarters.

"I believe we should be as intimately involved in communities as possible," stated Document Imaging Company Operations Manager, David Embry.



Photo Courtesy of the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce

Muscogee Citizen interns with Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise through OSU Program

OKMULGEE — Muscogee citizen Keith Bunner was working on the grounds crew at OSU-Okmulgee and realized there were not many opportunities for him to advance and to increase the wages he earned. He was married and had one child to support and he knew the only way to make a change in his life was to find a trade he would like and go back to school.

Keith made a decision to enroll in the Construction Management Program at OSU-Okmulgee. "I chose OSU-Okmulgee to stay close to home and I chose the construction program for the variety of work that this education would provide for me and the ability to earn a good income for my family," said Bunner.

One of the requirements that must be met by a student in the Construction Management Program is to do an internship with a construction company for a period of time that ranges from two to four

months. Keith immediately went to Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to see if he could intern.

He met with Michael Nalley, MNBE Director, and Woody Anderson, MNBE Sales Manager.



Keith Bunner, MNBE Internship

"Keith came to us needing to fulfill a school requirement of serving an internship in our construction services division," said Nalley. "We saw it as an opportunity to help promote a tribal citizen and to also encourage him to complete the program so that when he graduated he could come to work at MNBE."

"Keith has done an outstanding job while serving his internship at MNBE," said Anderson. "He is always willing to learn. He will do well in this industry."

Graduates from the Construction Management program at OSU-

Okmulgee can expect career opportunities with general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers or other industry related businesses. The degree program emphasizes supervisory, administrative and

management responsibilities coupled with technical hands-on knowledge. Graduates can qualify for positions such as office engineer, foreman, estimator, scheduler, expeditor, quality control engineer, inspector or independent contractor.

"MNBE will always be involved in sponsoring internships at the company for Muscogee (Creek) citizens whose field of study is in the area of construction and technology," said Nalley. "Our company feels very strong about the internships because it is important for our tribal citizens to know we support their efforts. It also helps to ensure we have tribal citizens who have the skill sets to be project managers."

"OSU-Okmulgee is an outstanding institution and we know the level of education our citizens receive will be first class," said Anderson.

Keith graduates in August and hopes to become a full-time employee at MNBE. He also dreams of owning a business someday. He and his wife Katura, now have two children, Erin and Kaili. Keith is a life time resident of Okmulgee and he is the son of Kenneth and Grace Bunner and is of the Bird Clan.

Spotlight

"It feels good," he said. "It really makes you feel good when these kids are really doing better."

The Season of Giving never ends

by Gerald Wofford

An old Indian story tells of a Church meeting on a cold, wintery night when the Pastor gave an invitation at the end of the service. No one came forward. Looking out at the familiar faces in the audience, the Pastor pretty much knew who was saved or who needed extra prayer. Everyone seemed to be okay.

The pastor then proceeded to another part of the service. A special call for everyone to give toward the building fund. "We need to start on building repairs this spring," said the pastor. "If we all start to give now, we will have enough by the spring." A basket was placed at the front of the podium for people to drop their offerings into at their discretion. The congregation gave as much as they could that December night. Each individual walked forward and put in what they could. After the service, the pastor and the treasurer looked at the amount given and knew it was a good start. They were then approached by a member of the Church who said, "Pastor, I want to give my all, everything that I have." The Pastor was happy and said, "great," but you don't have to give everything you have from your pocket." The member responded, "you don't understand Pastor, its not money I am giving you because I have none, but it is myself I am giving you. I will work and give you my all to help build the building the Church needs." The Pastor was impressed for he knew the poor member was trying to say that he really was giving everything, all that he had.

In 2001, a young man from Dustin decided to give everything that he had to try and help make someone's life just a little better. Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Eric Starr is a mentor with the John Crow Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to assist Native American youth in bettering their lives, both academically and socially. Starr is making sure the kids from the Dustin area not only get help with their schooling, but are positive contributors everywhere.

Its a week before thanksgiving and families everywhere are planning for the big holiday. The kids that are mentored and helped through the Crow Foundation, along with Eric Starr and other mentors, are planning to express their thanks. "The kids wanted to show their thanks and support of the troops in the Iraqi war," says Starr. "So we ordered flags and created cards and notes to send to them."

Starr says the gratitude was sent to all troops, but they were able to find Dustin alumni, such as Michael Dunson Jr. serving overseas. "The kids had a real good time doing this," says Starr. "They (kids) know what it is like to be helped and want to show their thanks as well."

The Crow Foundation is also helping the kids with another project. Many of the kids live in or around the Dustin-Hanna area. The kids try to find places to play, but often the local school area, where a lot of the kids go to play, closes and is locked up after five.

"We are going to help build a park and have equipment in Hanna," says Starr. "We have been raising money for this project. So far we have raised fifteen hundred dollars." Starr is also seeing that a similar project in Dustin also gets good treatment. "The one park in Dustin needs a new paint job and the kids are excited about helping out there as well."

Starr can truly say he has seen a change in the kids over the past three years due to the help he and other mentors of the Crow Foundation have provided. He knew it would be a challenge, but was ready to roll his sleeves up and get to work on a monumental and life-changing project.

"We have kids in our program now that at one time were wanting to be in gangs and were close to it," says Starr. "There wasn't any hope. Kids are going to try to connect or become a part of what they see. In this case, it was the gangs and that's terrible lifestyle!"

Starr talks about a meeting that he and the other mentors had with the parents and students of the community and the sparse attendance in the beginning.

"Last year, we had about 10 people show up for our meeting," he said. "But we wanted them to know we were here to help and let the kids know that there was a better life and better choices. In the span of that one year, the community has seen how much the foundation stepped up to that plate and that we weren't just a flash in the pan. The next year we had over 80 people show up

for the meeting. The kids, as well as the parents, are beginning to believe that we are here to stay. We see so much change in the kids. Their attitudes are better and their grades are better."

Starr admits that one of the true blessings in life is to see how much children can succeed when someone is willing to give of themselves and their time. "It feels good," he said. "It really makes you feel good when these kids are really doing better. I and all the other mentors will see the kids when we are visiting the school. We encourage them and give them high fives."

Starr is working his way through school and preparing to become a coach. His favorite sport to coach is basketball. Being a coach will be a goal of Eric Starr one day, but the mentoring part is something that he has down.



Eric Starr coached a high school girls team to a gold ball finish in last year's All-Indian March Madness Tournament. The team was sponsored by the Crow Foundation.

Shop talk with Gerald

Happy Holidays to all! If this isn't the right time to be watching sports, then I don't know what is. College and NFL football games are heating up to a fever pitch and basketball is just starting to take off. The University of Oklahoma is in position to win another National Championship. Oklahoma has to play the perfect game against Southern California, especially in the pass coverage area. Many are saying this game has the same magnitude as the 1971 *Game of the Century* with Nebraska. Perhaps it will be the latest *Game of the Century* for these 100 years.

I know Christmas will have everyone around the tube for a glimpse at the Kolby vs. Shaq matchup. These two superstars will face each other for the first time since their professional divorce last June. What kind of greeting do you feel Bryant will get when he tries to drive the lane for the first time and the only thing in front of him is the 'Big Diesel', or whatever he is calling himself these days. I don't think a mistletoe will be in use for this encounter. Must see TV!

The game will start around 2 p.m. central time, during halftime or a long commercial break, fans might want to switch on over to ESPN. A Muscogee (Creek) athlete by the name of Brad Pemberton will be competing in the World Championships of Long Drive Golfing. Pemberton was featured in the February issue of the *Muscogee Nation News* and has been quite successful in his golfing ventures. The World Championships of Long Ball Driving is scheduled to air at 3 p.m. central time on Christmas Day.

Speaking of the long drive, which of course is hitting the ball a great distance, it would seem a logical and competitive step to the older athlete who may not be ready to hang it up. You know who you are. You were known to hit the ball really well in your day, but you know the game is for younger athletes, which you may not be now. And it does seem as though more and more Indian athletes are playing golf these days. A rather relaxing sports, it has just enough competitiveness to make it interesting and slow enough to keep one from being too exhausted.

Finally, a correction in the November issue of the *Muscogee Nation News* needs to be made. The sports article entitled Haskell University honors Euchee athlete included a picture with the name Simon Harry instead of Cecil 'Zeke' Harry. Harry's mother, Nancy Jo, wanted to say that although she agreed with the complimentary statements about her son in the article, she did not make the statement. The statement, "Cecil had the speed of a running back with the recklessness of Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens," was made during the awards ceremony. So, we want to make things right for Harry's family. But hey, you know those Harry's, they're all good athletes. Keep sending us information about Creek athletes, we want to know!

MNN Athletes of the Month: Rodney and William Bencoma

WELEETKA — A Muscogee (Creek) athlete can sometimes be too much for the opposition, but going against twice the amount can be a little overwhelming. Take the Bencoma twins of Weleetka for example. Twins Rodney and William Bencoma have been anchors for their football team, the Weleetka Outlaws, all season long. As a matter of fact, the Creek seniors have been anchors for the Outlaws all of their high school years.

This legendary high school football tandem led the Weleetka Outlaws to a second Class B State Championship on Saturday, December 4, at the Choctaw High School Football field, officially named the Bill Jensen Field.

The Outlaws soundly defeated Morrison by the score of 46 to 6.

Rodney, who plays quarterback, rushed for two touchdowns, one of which covered an amazing 56 yards, and passed for three.

Brother William, who plays the running back position, also captured the show by scoring three touchdowns. One of his scores was an impressive 77 yard punt return.

During this year's playoff run, the Bencoma Boys and the Outlaws team let their desire be known in how strong they wanted the title. Weleetka outscored its playoff opponents by a 200-14 point margin and scored at least 46 points in all postseason victories, capped by the defeat of Morrison,

a team in which they were beaten by in last year's championship game.

The Outlaws also won a State Championship the year before in 2002.

The Bencomas have been an important part of the Outlaws since they were freshmen. During their four year high school career, Weleetka had 47 wins and only four losses, including two undefeated seasons in 2002 and 2004.

Outlaw Head Coach, Tony

Hawkins, has nothing but praise for the outstanding Creek athletes. "They are great leaders!" Coach Hawkins exclaimed "They make everyone around them better!"

William and Rodney are certainly appreciative of the honors that have been given them. Their future plans are to attend college and continue in athletics.



The Bencoma brothers proudly display the Class B State Championship trophy after the Weleetka Outlaws soundly defeated Morrison 46 to 6.

Littlebears contributes to Sapulpa winning

SAPULPA — Football season is over, but the accolades are just starting for the Littlebears of the Sapulpa Chieftains.

Brothers Brett and Patrick Littlebear both wear the Blue and Silver proudly and are big contributors to their teams.

Patrick is a sophomore at Sapulpa and Brett is a freshman.

Patrick saw lots of playing time for the high school team in the defensive secondary. Currently, he is part of the varsity basketball roster, but is gaining experience at the junior varsity level. A

position that Head Basketball Coach Brent Mackey sees helping Patrick be prepared for the High School game.

"Patrick has great talent and will only gain in experience and help the team out," said Coach Mackey.

Brother Brett had his share of playing time at Junior Varsity or ninth grade level. Brett led the team as a receiver.

The community has backed Patrick and Brett.

"They're not calling them the Chieftains, but the Sapulpa Littlebears," brags stepfather Ralph Gray.



Brothers Brett and Patrick Littlebear of the Sapulpa Chieftains are helping the Chieftains win this year. Coach Lee Wilson described Brett as "the team leader and took the team on his shoulders this year."

Community sports news

Watashe helps win football league championship

STROUD — Anderson Watashe plays for the Stroud Tigers 5th and 6th grade football team, which has won the 2004 Central Football League Championship for the third straight year. The team also won the 2004 Central Football League Division Championship. Andy's team played and won the league championship game on Nov. 6 and won in overtime with a final score of 14 to 6. Andy has seen action on both sides of the ball.

He was picked to play on the All-Star Team on Nov. 19 in Tulsa. He is the son of Ben and Paula Watashe, Sr. of Kellyville and Bess and Steven Franklin of Stroud.

Caywood helps team to state meet at ORU

TULSA — Andrea Caywood, a sophomore at Mannford High School, ran for the varsity cross country team. Andrea helped her team qualify for the state meet at Oral Roberts University.

She placed at the following meets: Owasso, fourth; Edison, third; Memorial, fourth; Booker T. Washington, fourth; Cleveland, first; and ORU, 12th.



Caywood

Caywood is a member of the Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground and is a member of the Bird Clan.

She is the daughter of Andrew and Melissa Caywood of Mannford.

Maternal grandparents are Danny Lindsey of Dewar and Neomi Lindsey of Depew.

Paternal grandparents Sam and Susan Caywood of Mannford.

Second Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament

DEWAR — Bacone College will be hosting this All-Indian March Madness Tournament College Prep Seminar on Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

All participants of the March Madness Tournament will be required to attend the seminar. This seminar will help prepare the Native American Youth for college life. All attendees have the opportunity for a 35% scholarship to attend Bacone in the fall.

Along with the seminar, Bacone is giving the March Madness Tournament Committee two additional scholarships. According to Jared Adair, Bacone College Representative, the two scholarship awards will cover 100% of tuition costs for a residential student for four concurrent years at Bacone.

For an entry form and scholarship application, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or (918) 650-3920.

2nd ANNUAL ALL-INDIAN



March 23-27, 2005

TOURNAMENT INFO

High School Ages: Boy's & Girl's
Teams Must Be Community Based
Dewar Gymnasium, Oklahoma
Entry Fee: \$150 (Non-Refundable)
Tuition: \$1000
Deadline: March 14
24 Team Limit (12 Boys, 12 Girls)

AWARDS

1st Place - Gold Ball and Individuals Awards
2nd Place - 12 x 15 Plaque and Individuals Awards
3rd Place - 10 x 13 Plaque and Individuals Awards
4th Place - 9 x 12 Plaque and Individuals Awards
All-Tournament & Male and Female MVP Award
Outstanding Offensive & Defensive Player Award
East/West All-Star Game MVP

SPECIAL EVENTS

3-Point, Team-Ball & Slam Dunk
East/West All-Star Game
Two \$1,000 Scholarships
Two Scholarships to Bacone College
Contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634
after 5 P.M. (918) 650-3920 or tmv4@yahoo.com
for an entry form or scholarship application
Scholarships are for graduating H.S. Seniors.

According to 60 Scholastic Sports Members of the NCSAA, this tournament and all its events is in compliance with the NCSAA Amateur Rule.

LARRY BERRYHILL

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Larry Dean Berryhill were held November 24 at Shurden Chapel with Rev. Mark Milligan officiating.

He was born June 28, 1949 in Henryetta to Delilah and James Berryhill.

Larry worked for Anchor Glass Company for eight years. He was a member of the Little Cussetah Church.

Berryhill was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Survivors include: three children, Catherine Ihloff, James Robin and Christopher Kyle Berryhill; three grandchildren; two brothers, Lucien and Prentiss Glen Berryhill; sister, Phyllis Berryhill; and a host of friends and other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Larry Arnold; Stephen Ellis; David Patterson; Billy Thompson; and Aaron Morris.

Interment was at Little Cussetah Church Cemetery.

WILMA WASHINGTON

MUSKOGEE — Funeral services for Wilma Rowena Wolfe Washington were held October 28 at Bradley Belltower Chapel with Rev. Allison Phillips and Rev. Dale Carey officiating.

She was born in Wetumka on December 22, 1926 to Berty Wolfe and Augusta London Wheat.

Washington graduated from Bacone College in 1945 with a nursing degree. She worked at Oklahoma Baptist Hospital, Bebbs Flowers Nursery, York Manor, Heritage Nursing Home and retired as a private duty nurse in 1987.

Wilma played the piano, taught Sunday School, girls auxiliary, revivals and bible school. She was a member of Vann Lake Baptist Church of Porter.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Geneva Bonsack.

Survivors include: children, Genell Perez of Florida; JoLynn Smith of Enid; Joe Washington Jr., Sandra Carey, Janet Washington, and Leslie Deere, all of Muskogee; 17 grandchildren; seven

great-grandchildren; brothers, Lloyd Wheat Jr., Edmond, Jim and Roscoe Wolfe; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Honorary pallbearers were: Norman Daniels; Thompson Billy; Norman Carey; Charles and Keith Carpenter and Derrick Washington.

Gratitude

We would like to thank the Arbeka Indian Baptist Church members for the wake service and funeral service they conducted. Also, the women for preparing and serving the food to the family and friends attending.

We extend a very special thanks to the BIA for helping with the funeral expenses and the Social Services Department for the food voucher.

Also, thanks goes to our friends, neighbors and others who donated food, money, cards, plants, flowers and prayers during our loss.

Elsie Waters family

We would like to express our appreciation for everyone that attended the services some came a long way.

Alexander Brown family

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbors. We thank Concharty Methodist Church for their services. We are sincerely grateful and thank those who brought food, sent cards, flowers and prayers during the loss of our loved one.

Andrew Tecumseh Jr. family

Letters

continued from page 2

Citizens voices concerns

Editor:

I feel compelled to write this letter after reading the MNN, November 2004, Citizens Voices Concerns.

I resent any negativity toward Chief Claude Cox,

especially since he is deceased and we now have had several chiefs to compare with him. Chief Cox established most of the programs that we benefit from today, particularly Indian gaming.

The Muskogee (Creek) Constitution was signed into effect on October 9, 1979. (Allen Harjo was one of the signers.) If Mr. Harjo wishes to refer to our Constitution, he should familiarize himself with Article VI, Section 6. This is the authority exercised by the National Council on November 9, 2004.

During our service years together, Chief Cox and I would sometimes have different opinions on concern issues; however, we always maintained mutual respect. I believe Chief Claude Cox made more of a contribution to the Creek people than Mr. Allen Harjo.

I was surprised that Chief Ellis would allow a Deputy Director of his Administration to write such a letter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Childers, Sr., Coweta

Christmas outing

Editor:

The newly organized Okfuskee Este-Cate Vculv ke, Okfuskee Indian Elderly, recently had their Christmas outing on December 2. The outing included a dinner at the Golden Corral and attending the Shawnee Downtown Christmas Parade. We were fortunate that the City of Shawnee allowed us to park close to the judges stand so the Elderly could watch from the vans if it was too cold. We happen to park near a stand where hot coffee and cocoa was sold, so we took advantage of that.

We say MVTO to the Second Chief Alfred Berryhill and the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Nutrition Program for the donations of funds and transportation, which made this a successful and memorable activity. This was the first of many activities we hope to offer the elderly residing in the Okfuskee District. There was eighteen Creek elderly that participated.

Sincerely,

Mae Jackson, Chairperson Okfuskee Este-Cate Vculvke

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(24 Hours)




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Funeral Director

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866.599.0918
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LARRY MARTINEZ, (CHEROKEE)

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Two new additions to our staff with over
80 years of combined experience to better serve you
Bob McLemore and Patty Fletcher

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Two locations to serve your needs:

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Bristow, OK 74010
918.567.2244

1521 W. Columbia
Okemah, OK 74859
918.623.1133

National Lights on for Life Day

OKMULGEE — On December 17, as part of the national "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" campaign, the "Lights on for Life Day Project Under 21" is working to protect Oklahoman's from impaired drivers during this busy time of the year.

The John Crow IV Memorial Foundation and the Club U21 members at Ryal, Graham, Dustin and Hanna Schools are asking everyone to leave their vehicle headlights on during the daylight hours in memory of those who have lost their lives to drunk drivers and as a reminder to never drink and drive.

Project Under 21 is a statewide law enforcement initiative geared toward educating and informing Oklahoma communities about the risks and consequences of under the age of 21 drinking.

Performing Arts Center offers entertainment for the holidays

TULSA — Scrooge is back, along with the Mouse King! There are bells ringing and choirs singing, along with Kris Kringle and "Mr. Romance" on hand to awaken that dreamy winter wonderland feeling.

The Performing Arts Center's roster of events is holiday heavy in December with entertainment to fit any busy schedule and pocketbook. For more information or photographs, contact Nancy Hermann, at (918) 596-2368 or nhermann@cityoftulsa.org.

Tickets may be purchased on-line at tulsapac.com or by phoning (918) 596-7111. The Tulsa Performing Arts Center is located at 110 East 2nd St.

Pain seeks to develop American Indian Talent

CALIFORNIA — Duncan Pain, a record producer, is seeking Native American talent to develop.

"You probably don't know the name, Darren Geffre, right? But 470,000 people do," said Pain. "Darren Geffre is a Blackfeet recording artist. In 2003, Darren and his investor came to me and asked if I could develop Darren as a singer. They felt his talent hadn't gotten him as much success as it should have. I listened to Darren, decided he did have talent, and I worked with him.

Geffre's solo CD "Uncivilized", has won the FAITA Award and has been nominated for another. His music video "Crab" has won the prestigious ISFV Image Award, in Wisconsin."

Pain is now looking for another tribal member to develop. For more information contact Duncan Pain at (818)352-5977.

Art Institute of Chicago opens new art exhibit

CHICAGO — The Art Institute of Chicago recently opened a new exhibit, entitled *Hero, Hawk, and Open Hand: American Indian Art of Ancient Midwest and South*. This exhibit was made possible by major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibit opened in Chicago on November 20, 2004, and will be on view until January 20, 2005. Tim Thompson, Creek Nation Cultural Advisor and member of Hickory Ground, was privileged to be present at the opening of the exhibit and attended the pre-opening festivities.

The exhibit explores Midwestern and southern themes, assembling over 300 masterpieces of artwork made from stone, ceramic, wood shell, and copper. These pieces were created by artisans from the Midwest and south between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 1600. The exhibit includes sculptural forms that represent human, animal, and vegetable motifs, and it also includes composite imaginary creatures, abstract shapes, and embellished vessels, implements, and ritual paraphernalia. "This is an important exhibit," Thompson noted, "because it lets people know that we really did exist in the southeast."

To enable more Creek people to view these important pieces, it was hoped that the exhibit might be brought to a venue closer to Oklahoma, such as Tulsa; however, the closest place with sufficient space to house the exhibit was found to be in St. Louis. The exhibit will be opening to the public at the St. Louis

Art Museum on March 4, 2005, and will remain open there until May 20, 2005. It will be on view at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in late July through late September.

Richard F. Townsend, the director of African and American Indian Art at the Art Institute of Chicago, is the curator of this wonderful exhibit.

The exhibit received its name because of the recurrent forms of visual imagery found in the various diverse cultures found in the Midwest and south.

The cultures of the "moundbuilders" are explored through the identification and interpretation of the symbolic representations of these ancient societies, complementing what we know about them from archeological studies.

The themes of the exhibition center on the cosmic and social order of the societies of the ancient Midwest and south, the hunt and the animal powers, gods and heroes, the worship of ancestors, and the office of chiefs.

Special thanks for indispensable help and cooperation were given to Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Poarch Band Creeks, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, Choctow Nation, Seminole Nation, and Chickasaw Nation.

By logging on to <http://www.artic.edu/aic/exhibitions/herohawk/overview.html>, interested citizens may preview the exhibit.



Vessel in the Form of a Kneeling Female Figure.

Indian rock band *Indigenous* to play in Tulsa

TULSA — On December 17, the American Indian rock band *Indigenous* will be playing at the Cains Ballroom.

Indigenous' latest album captures the raw energy and the power that fans have come to expect from their live shows. Witness the incredible new single "C'mon Suzie" which truly showcases Mato's remarkable guitar work and soulful delivery of a vocal hook. *Indigenous* is out now and will surely be seen as a career-defining album for this exciting young band.

Tickets are now available at the Cain's Box Office at (918) 584-2306. Tickets may also be purchased at all Star Ticket Outlets, including Albertson's, The Brady Theater, Drillers Stadium, The Wall in Bartlesville, and at Starship Records and Tapes. On-line tickets can also be purchased at www.startickets.com or by phone at 1 (888) 585-3737.





Muscogee Nation News

The Year In Review, 2004

Tribe holds inauguration ceremony for newly elected tribal officials

OKMULGEE — A crowd of over 600 gathered at OSU/Okmulgee's Covelle Hall to witness the swearing in of A.D. Ellis into the office of principal chief at Saturday's inauguration ceremony.

Ellis, former second chief and national council representative, spoke on the direction his administration will take during his tenure as principal chief. Atop his list of priorities for the tribe includes economic development, education, and more employment opportunities for tribal citizens.

"I never dreamed I'd be in this position," stated Ellis. "But the majority of Creek citizens wanted me to be here." In fact, Ellis made history by being the first chief candidate to receive over 51 percent (1905) of the votes during the primary election, deciding the office of principal chief without a general election race.



Judge Amos McNac, far right, swears in the newly elected 2004 National Council Representatives.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Justice Amos McNac, right, swears in A.D. Ellis as principal chief at the inauguration ceremony held at OSU/Okmulgee.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Justice Amos McNac, right, congratulates second chief Alfred Berryhill after being sworn in.

Chief Ellis gives state of the nation address

OKLMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis gave his State of the Nation Address at the quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. Chief Ellis spoke on the tribe's present financial stability and future growth potential.

"Our accounting department system has always received the highest award from the federal government," stated Ellis. "This is the 12th year for us to receive this award. We were the first nation in the United States to receive this award."

Chief Ellis spoke about the financial growth of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), a tribal 8(a) company. "MNBE has a contract with Altus AFB for \$25 million over a 6-year period," said Ellis. "Presently they are repairing and replacing the roof and air conditioning of the existing casino. They will also be working on the \$1 million sprung building in Tulsa. It is time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation should have our own construction company. We should be doing our own work, instead of paying out side companies to do our work. We need to circulate money within our tribe."



Food distribution holds open house

OKMULGEE — In support of March's National Nutrition Month "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy" campaign, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program held an open house ceremony on March 30.

Food Distribution, which has been in operation for 22 years, provides commodity foods to households that must meet certain income guidelines and have assets within specified limits. The program service area includes: Creek, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, Tulsa, Hughes, Muskogee, corner of Wagoner, Mayes, and McIntosh counties.



Creek Warrior close to retiring from boxing

OKMULGEE — After bringing so much pride, joy and just plain good fighting to local fight fans, BJ Wagnor is seriously considering calling it quits in the ring. Wagnor stated that he is 75% sure he will retire very soon from the sport of boxing.

"I have a lot of responsibilities in my life right now," said Wagnor. "I know there are other things in my life that certainly warrant attention, such as other career opportunities."

Wagnor's record has been very impressive, 500 wins and only 19 losses as an amateur.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Original Allottee passes away at the age of 101



Original Allottee California "Kelly" Fixico passed away Sunday, April 11 at Valley View Regional Hospital at the age of 101. Services were held Thursday, April 15, at Tukvptce Church with Rev. Malcolm Tiger officiating. He was born June 2, 1902 to Lucy Kernal and Kano [Cano] Fixico on his allotment which was located west of Paden. California belonged to the Beaver Clan. Both of his parents belonged to Little River Tulsa Tribal Town. His maternal grandparents are Mary Kernal McCulla and Peter Kernal. Selusky Bear and Nokos Fixico are his paternal grandparents.

Creek weightlifter breaks state high school record

MORRIS — In today's society, the emphasis is always placed on mental strength. Qualities such as character and fortitude are also a prerequisite in the modern world. But physical strength has always been admired.

Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Marcus Duvall of Morris High School is considered a leader of sorts and definitely receives a lot of respect from his classmates. Duvall recently set a state high school weightlifting record in the deadlift contest held at Norman North High School on March 12 of this year. He deadlifted approximately 655 pounds, breaking the old record set by another Muscogee citizen.



Chief Ellis and his administration hold meeting with Ceremonial leaders

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis recently held a meeting to bridge the gap between the Tribal Administration and the Ceremonial Grounds. Principal Chief Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Attorney General Montie Deere and fourteen of the sixteen remaining ceremonial grounds were in attendance.

"I have respect for the grounds and the people of the grounds," stated Ellis. "I commend them for carrying on the tradition that has been passed on for hundreds of years. They are largely responsible for keeping the language, culture and tradition preserved. One of my promises was to unite the nation. Today was a historical occasion."

A round table meeting was held giving each Mekko and/or Henchv the opportunity to voice their concerns and share their hopes to keep the tradition alive for generations to come. Duck Creek Mekko and Elder Simon Harry spoke of his Ceremonial experiences over the past sixty years.

"Sickness has taken a lot of people and it has affected the young ones as well," stated Harry. "I am still trying to carry on what the elders left for me to carry on."



Mills crowned 2004-2005 Miss Muscogee Nation



World War II veteran visits memorial, remembers Death March

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On May 29, the National World War II Memorial was formally dedicated in the main mall of Washington, D.C.

The memorial was constructed near other historic structures, such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The memorial will serve as a point of gratitude from a thankful nation and a reminder to future generations of those who served their country during a very critical time.

Phillip Coon, World War II veteran, made the journey from his home in Sapulpa to the Nation's Capitol to partake in the festivities. "It was quite an honor," said Coon, who was accompanied by his wife, Helen, and son Mike.

"Many people saw Dad's hat which had an inscription about the Bataan death march," said Mike. "They (people) really wanted to talk to him."

Coon served in the U.S. Army during the war and was involved in the Pacific Theatre. Coon, along with 75,000 infantrymen and Filipino soldiers, endured the horrible Bataan Death March, an ordeal in which allied prisoners of war were forced to march 100 miles under the rule of the Japanese military to prison camps with no guarantee of food or water. Along the way, Coon and countless others experienced tortuous conditions. Between 10 and 20 thousand prisoners of war died on this horrible march.



Housing Authority assists elderly tribal couple

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is constantly seeking new ways to help tribal citizens. One of the ways it does so is through the Housing Authority, now under the direction of Creek Nation. An example of this assistance is the full metal house they provided to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden. This house was the first full metal house to be presented in this pilot program designed to assist the elderly who need new houses. Mr. and Mrs. Gooden were very pleased, saying, "We're going to have to be like the Japanese, taking our shoes off and washing our hands to come into the house." According to tribal administration, this is only a glimpse of the good things to come for the Housing Authority and the entire Creek Nation.



30th ANNUAL Creek Festival



Creek ceremonial song to be included in Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

WASHINGTON D.C., — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will celebrate its Grand Opening on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Located on the fourth floor of the museum is the Preparation Theater program, a 13-minute presentation immersing viewers in the vibrancy and diversity of contemporary Native life and explores, from a Native perspective, the strength that different communities across the hemisphere derive from their connections to land, religion, traditional knowledge, self government, and self expression.

The program is presented in a uniquely designed space that features sound, objective theater, and three projection surfaces, including a 360 degree dome. A portion of the music will be a stompdance song led by Creek Citizen Waylon Gray. The audio track is part of the Stompdance Songs of the Muscogee Nation, Volume I, recorded on July 18, 1999.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to contract with BWXT Pantex and Department of Energy

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) held a meeting with representatives of the BWXT Pantex Company regarding a near future contract. BWXT Pantex is the only company within the United States that assembles and disassembles nuclear devices. The Pantex plant is owned by the Department of Energy and is located in Amarillo, Texas. Facilities for MNBE will locate a project office at the facility.

MNBE's immediate goals are to develop safety plans, activity plans and begin the first stages of the proposal for this contract. BWXT Pantex will facilitate and manage a 10 year, \$750 million infrastructure program.

Classes begin at the newly created Tribal College

OKMULGEE — Classes officially began at the newly created Tribal College on the campus of OSU-Okmulgee on Sept. 1.

"We believe this is the beginning of something very special," said Mike Flud, Division of Human Development Deputy Director. "Four of the five largest tribes in the Nation reside in eastern Oklahoma. Our institution of higher learning will be a great resource for educating and preserving our future generations and act as a model for other educational institutions to follow."

A total of 38 students enrolled in Creek Language, Native American History, or one of the 13 general education classes offered at the Tribal College Pilot Project.



MNN Athlete of the Month: Missy Fox

OKMULGEE — At the age of 11, Missy Fox made a decision that would test her character, as well as her father Brad's. She decided to become a pitcher. As in any sport, time is of the essence. Fox missed out on those early years of repetitious work of perfecting the art of pitching. But as any loving parent would, her father stepped in and has supported his daughter every step of the way.

"We would practice one to two hours a day, six days a week," said Brad. "Sometimes we would go twice a day. I would be at home watching television and remember something she did wrong. I couldn't get it off my mind, so I asked her if she wanted to go practice again. She was eager to go."



Tribal representatives and citizens attend grand opening of National Museum of the American Indian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A large group of tribal representatives and citizens attended the Grand Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. Part of the grand opening festivities was the Native Nations Procession. Thousands of people, many in Native dress and regalia, walked in unison to the stage of the Grand Opening ceremony. The procession provided an enduring symbol for the dawning of a new era — the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.



National Council Representatives Jesse Kelley, far left, and Bill Jones, far right, along with Chief Ellis and his wife, middle, lead the proud contingency of Creek tribal representatives and citizens during the grand opening ceremonies.

Chief Ellis accepts grant award from IHS for diabetes program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis accepted a competitive grant award from Dr. Charles Grim, Executive Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The grant offered by IHS uses funds set aside from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to reduce risks for heart disease in the diabetes population.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded the maximum amount of \$404,000 a year for the next five years. "I'd like to thank Dr. Grim for the opportunity to participate in the mission of this grant," said Chief Ellis. "I'd also like to thank and recognize the work of the Health System, in particular the Diabetes Program staff for writing the grant application."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was one of seven tribes in Oklahoma to receive a grant.



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Scott Robison, Charles Coleman, Johnnie Brausell, Chief Ellis, Dr. Grim, Victoria Lee, and Patricia Buckley.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Nation combine new business venture

MUSKOGEE—For the first time ever the Creek and Cherokee Nations are teaming up for a business venture pursuing call center contracts. Both Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Connects, a majority-owned Cherokee Business, are in the call center contracting business, but the signing of a teaming agreement between the two entities will help them both.

"Instead of competing against each other, we have created a stronger business team that will be able to generate a lot more revenue than we would have if we had been working separately", said Chad Smith Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. "At the end of the day, we'll all come out ahead."

"Chief Smith has talked to me many times about becoming partners," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, "We realize that the impact that the two nations could have on Muskogee, Tulsa and this part of Oklahoma could be huge. I think the economy, not only for the two nations, but the economy of this area will improve immensely."

Chief keeps promise, reaches out to tribal citizens



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis is greeted by Allen Mitchell of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association during a recent visit at the request of the association.



Veterans Day Ceremony

November 10, 2004

"Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans. In 1968, new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date."



Judge Moore, right, congratulates Loy Thomas for his service to our Country.



WW II Veteran Phillip Coon, bows his head during the opening prayer.